

文句の
付けようがない
ラブコメ

Never Ending Story

鈴木大輔

DAISUKE SUZUKI

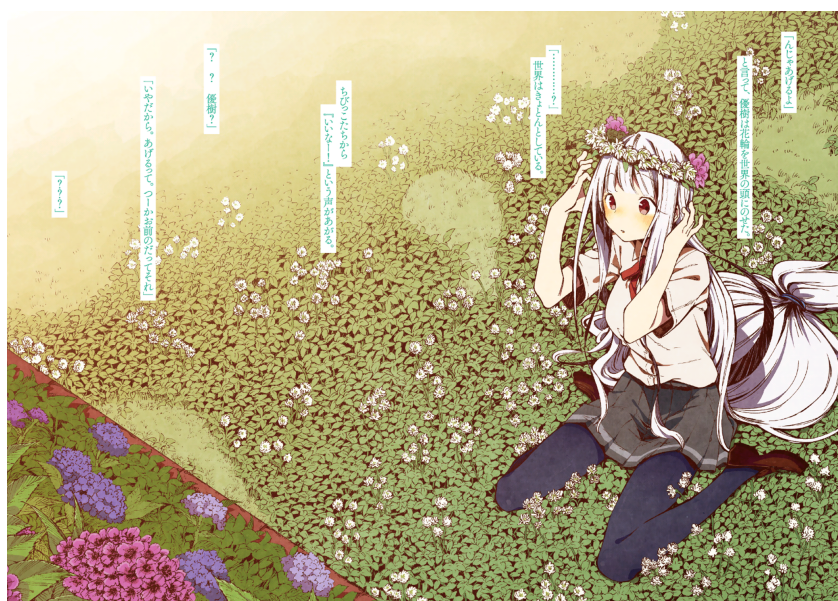
三笠 肋兵衛

volume

2

ダッシュエックス文庫





「ふふふふふふ」

「さあ、僕等は花輪を世界の隅にのぞく」

「………
世界はさあ、さあ、さあ」

「ちひさなから」

「いなかー」とうめあがる

「？ 係樹？」

「いやだから、あけて、つかお前のだてこれ」

「………」

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Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai Rabukome – Volume 2: Chapter 1



March ended as spring came into full swing.

It was a new year, and a new school period.

†

“Man. Still, it was pretty amazing~.” It was during after school. They were in Murakumo Private High School’s 3rd year class A’s classroom. While doing the work of organizing printouts, Koiwai Kurumi spoke out roughly. “Kanaruzawa Sekai-san. It’s my first time seeing someone like that.”

“...Mmm. Yeah.” Kirishima Yuuki gave an unenthusiastic response while aligning the corners of the printouts.

“No matter how you try to put it, she looks amazing! Her hair was silver and her eyes were red. Moreover, she’s insanely cute. She isn’t that tall but she has a huge chest.”

“Well. I guess.”

“She’s definitely some sort of princess.” Kurumi was imagining it all with dazzling eyes. “It’s like, having her just stand there gives off some sort of aura. It’s somewhat nerve-wracking but at the same time dignified. No well, it’s like a jewel, a jewel. She’s a jewel. A diamond.”

“I see. Well that’s true.”

“Hafuu... she’s really such an amazing girl.”

“Who knows? I wonder.”

Kurumi made a sullen look. Giving him a glare, she pointed her finger at him, “Can you be a little more into the conversation? We’ve been friends since middle school, right? We’ve been in the same class and we’re fellow class representatives, right?”

“Well, that’s true.”

“Or what is it then? Is it because you were brought up as a young

rich boy? You don't have much interest in a princess because of that? This why rich people are..."

"It's not exactly like that." Yuuki made a bitter smile. There was a reason that he didn't hold any interest in the transfer student. "I mean. That girl, ever since the day she transferred, she hasn't come to school."

That's right. The transfer student, Kanaruzawa Sekai, hasn't shown her face at school ever since she shook the school on her arrival. "To be honest, I don't have interest in anyone who doesn't come to school. Of course, she was really pretty, and I was really surprised when I first saw her though."

"That's true." Kurumi also made a bitter smile, "Me too. It's fine to just watch and have fun. I still have to think twice about actually talking to her and hanging out with her though. It's just that she really stands out."

That's also true. The transfer student was as beautiful as a jewel, but whether she would be able to fit in was a completely different matter. Rather, there was no way she could fit in. After all, the amount of people she has talked to since the first day she transferred was zero. None of their classmates wanted to try and make contact with a girl who seemed out of this dimension.

However, everyone was super excited about the transfer student coming, but since the type of person that ended up showing up was outside of their imagination, they ended up not knowing how to handle the situation.

"She even left immediately." Kurumi sharpened her lip, "She said that she was feeling bad or something, and ended up leaving without going through class. Because of that, we never had any time to talk to her from our side."

"Yeah. Just getting close to her was impossible."

"Being too beautiful is bad for a girl too. It's a really tough spot to be in. It's also why I can't get a boyfriend."

“... Why are you sneaking glances at me?”

“Mufufun. Even though you know why.”

Now, praise me, that was the face that Kurumi was making. Yuuki thought back to the transfer student.

Kanaruzawa Sekai.

She was an existence that was beautiful and otherworldly. It was a singular point that stuck out in their normal daily lives. It can't be helped that she sticks out in their minds.

Yuuki didn't exchange a single word with her, neither did he have a single point of contact with her—however, that girl was too unique. So different that it could be thought that she wasn't human.

†

“—Onii-sama. Let's have a quiz.”

That night, in the Kirishima house's garden. Haruko made a suggestion as they were having their after-dinner tea.

“Quiz?” Yuuki tilted his head, “Why so suddenly again?”

“Question number one.” His little sister insisted. Jagajagajan~, she started off the quiz with that, “What do you think is what a girl hates the most in this world?”

“Even if you ask me that, I have no clue.”

“I wonder whaaat iiit iiis??” She insisted further. From across the table she leaned over and repeated herself once more. She was smiling but her eyes were not.

“Ummm.” He quickly turned his thoughts and began to think. It was best for him to play along for now. “Well, let's see, the body odor of a middle-aged man.”

“Bubu~. That's wrong.”

“Being next to a middle-aged man in a crowded train.”

“Bubu~. That’s also wrong.”

“The greasy bald head of a middle-aged man.”

“Can you stop it with the middle-aged man already? It’s quite rude, you know?”

“Even if you say that. I don’t know what I don’t know.”

“By the way, if you get it wrong one more time, you will be signing a marriage registration form for me ♡.”

“Nono. You’re in elementary school aren’t you? I’m a high schooler after all.”

“Don’t think about all the details. Come on, the countdown is starting. Teeenn, niiinnnee, eeeiiiggght, seevveen...”

It was a merciless countdown. Yuuki shook his head and raised both his hands. “Yeah, it’s no good. I don’t know. I give up.”

“Alright, that’s such a shame! Then, quickly sign this marriage registration form...”

“Wait. At least tell me the right answer.”

“You’re such a bad sport, Onii-sama. No matter how much you struggle, tomorrow, we will be going on a honeymoon trip you know? To a country that allows siblings the freedom to marry each other that is. Mufufu ♡.”

“Like there’s a country like that. Come on now, tell me quickly.” He urged her on with a glare.

Haruko snorted, “Then, let me tell you what it is. The right answer is...”

Bishi! She pointed straight between her brother’s eyes, “When we finally have the rare chance of spending time alone together, my beloved Onii-sama is thinking about another girl! There’s no other

thing that is more annoying than that! It's so frustrating!"

"Isn't that just about you? That isn't about the general world at all."

"Really though, it's completely unforgivable, you know? While spending tea time with your cute little sister, Onii-sama clearly has his mind elsewhere. I know it. Inside your mind is a girl other than me."

"I didn't have my mind elsewhere though." He couldn't help being tongue-tied as he tried to respond. The intuition that his sister had was like a wild animal. The fact that he was thinking about another girl was completely true.

"Well? Who are you thinking about?" Haruko leaned over towards him. Her eyes told him that she would not forgive him if he tried to brush it off with a lie. As such, Yuuki let her hear it.

The silver haired transfer student. Her otherworldly aura. And how she hadn't come to school since the first day.

"Fumu." After she finished listening, she took a breath. She wrapped both her hands around her cup and dropped her gaze. After thinking for a bit, "Onii-sama."

"Yeah."

"Is it alright if I say something serious?"

"Go ahead."

"It's better for you not to be involved with that person." His sister said that suddenly.

Yuuki laughed, "I thought you would say that. But regardless, even if the other person wasn't that transfer student, you probably would have said the same thing."

"Of course. Any bug that tries to get close to Onii-sama should be exterminated without leaving a single one left. For example, that Koiwai Whatever-her-name-is person."

“I’ll act like I didn’t hear your statement just now.”

“Regardless of any personal circumstances though,” His sister made a serious face, “I just don’t have a good feeling about that person. You should keep your distance from her.”

“Why do you think that?”

“Intuition.”

“I see. Your intuition is usually right after all.” He made a sigh as he leaned back in his chair.

Haruko pushed even more. “You might think it’s fine to approach with some interest. But you know what they say, curiosity killed the cat.”

“That’s true. I’ll be careful.”

“It’s just like how they say that beautiful things are dangerous. Like how roses have thorns.”

“Exactly.”

“By the way, I’m also full of thorns.”

“By that, are you trying to suggest that you are beautiful?”

“Well, you don’t need to worry about it most likely. A rose as beautiful and cute as me that doesn’t have any thorns, sometimes exists.”

“I wouldn’t think that a person that said she would eliminate all bugs without leaving a single one left was without any thorns.”

“Moreover, that rose is completely devoted to you, Onii-sama. We should marry quickly.”

She ended up ignoring his retort. Yuuki sipped on the tea. Haruko smiled as she watched over him.

“Onii-sama.”

“Hmm?”

“Are you happy right now?”

“...Hmm?” He was surprised at the sudden question. Haruko smiled as she waited for an answer. It was still a little cold in the early spring garden. If you looked up at Tokyo’s night sky, stars could be seen twinkling. “Well, I guess I’m happy. No complaints.”

It was true that he was blessed. It would be fine to say that he was too blessed. Ever since he was born, he was brought up without any inconveniences.

Born as an heir to a world class pharmaceutical company. His familial environment was fine. There was no problem with his relationships with other people and he was able to live fully satisfied until today. It will probably be the same from now on. There’s no way he wasn’t happy.

“...And?” He turned to face his sister. Her face seemed to be full of underlying motives. “Why did you ask such a thing?”

“No, it’s nothing. It’s fine if Onii-sama is happy.”

His sister smiled while nodding. She was smiling from her heart, but her eyes seemed to be looking somewhere far away—sometimes, she would have eyes like that.

“Well, how should I say this?” While drinking the last bit of tea left in the cup, Yuuki nodded. “Thanks for the advice. I’ll try to remember it.”

“Yeah. Please do so.”

His sister laughed again. It was a fully satisfied smile made him want to pat her. He didn’t know what she was thinking when she said not to get involved Kanaruzawa Sekai. However, he would try to listen to her words as much as she could.

Kirishima Haruko was Kirishima Yuuki’s precious little sister after all.

Then, the next day.

Yuuki was standing in front of the house of Kanaruzawa Sekai.

“Sorry, Imouto....”

“Eh? What are you talking about?”

“Yeah, it’s nothing. Just talking to myself.”

After answering Kurumi, who was tilting her head, he once again turned to face Kanaruzawa’s mansion.

They were at a place along the Soubu Line designated as a specially protected area. The wave of development didn’t extend into this area, and many Western-style buildings from before the war remained in various places. Kanaruzawa’s mansion was one of those buildings.

There was no other reason for them to come here today besides the fact that their homeroom teacher had asked them to. *“Hey, the two of you class representatives, I’m sorry but will you guys bring her the printouts,”* he had asked.

“By the way, Koiwai-san.”

“Hmm?”

“There isn’t an interphone for this house, is there?”

“That’s true. It’s an old mansion after all”

“It doesn’t have a nameplate either.”

“It’s that kind of house after all.”

Yuuki looked around left and right.

It was a quiet place. There were no cars. Neither could the sound of trains be heard. Besides that, there was also very little sign of any people. Everywhere were expensive looking mansions, and it seemed as if sounds were barely able to come out into the open. It had that sort of feeling.

“You know, Koiwai-san.”

“Whaat?”

“I was told by my sister. Don’t get involved with that transfer student, you see.”

“As long as the other person is a girl, that little sister would probably say the same thing to about them.”

“But still. I feel that as an older brother, I should try my best to listen to what she says, or something like that.”

“If that’s the case, then you wouldn’t even be able to be friends with me.”

He couldn’t respond to that. It seems that it was about time for him to make his resolve now.

“Ah~ Ah~. Kohon kohon.” Yuuki cleared his throat.

He confirmed his surroundings. If you’re a man then hurry up and do it, or so Kurumi’s gaze seemed to communicate to him. Seeing that, he took a deep breath,

“Is there something you need?”

His breathing stopped and he turned around in a hurry. Before he had realized it, a maid had appeared. It was a maid dressed in formal looking maid clothes.

“I’m called Chiyo.” The maid bowed, “What can I do for you today?”

She smiled softly.

She held the soft demeanor of a beautiful woman. At the same time, she didn’t seem like a person who would let her guard down. She knew how to erase her presence too well. Against such a person, he probably wouldn’t be able to win against her in a fight.

“Ummm, you see.”

In place of the now stiffened Yuuki, Kurumi explained. About how they were Kanaruzawa Sekai's classmates. And that their homeroom teacher had asked them to deliver the printouts.

"I see." Chiyo-san seemed to have accepted it, "I understand the situation. Thank you for taking into consideration my mistress's concerns."

"Ah, no. Our pleasure." Yuuki was somehow able to give a polite reply.

"Sekai-san," On the other hand, Kurumi was unafraid, "Is she currently at home? If possible, I was thinking of giving her a word of greeting."

"Fumu." The maid took a little bit of time to think. "Koiwai Kurumi-sama, and also Kirishima Yuuki-sama are you're names, correct? Thank you very much for taking your time and energy to come here today. However..."

She looked at the two of them in turn. Then, the maid gave a slight smile, "If you would like to get involved with my mistress, you must have a certain amount of resolution. Despite this, is that fine with the two of you."

"..."

"..."

Yuuki and Kurumi looked at each other.

"Ummm." Yuuki raised his hand, "What do you mean by resolution?"

"I'm sorry but I can't say."

"Haa." He looked at Kurumi one more time. Then, he thought for a bit, "Well, you see, Chiyo-san."

"Yes?"

"You were talking about whether or not we should get involved. However, Kanaruzawa Sekai-san ended up transferring into our class,

after all. We can't really not be involved with her, since coming here to this point in time, we are already involved in some way."

"Yes."

"Still, if you still want us to not be involved with Sekai-san from now on, it'll be hard. There's already a problem with the fact that she had transferred into our school."

"..."

The maid continued to smile silently. Did he say a little bit too much? He became worried about that, however,

"... That's true." The maid nodded with a smile. Then, she bowed deeply, "It's exactly as you have said. Please forgive my rudeness."

"Ah, no. It's no problem."

"Well then, I've told you what I needed to tell you." The door opened as they were invited in. "I will show you to where my mistress is. Please come this way."

"Ah, yes. Thank you."

He once again looked at Kurumi.

(... What should we do?)

(No no, even if you ask me that...)

During their short moment of eye contact, the only conclusion that they could come up with was that "they could only go on."

"Please come this way."

Having built up their decision, Yuuki and Kurumi took a step into the mansion. The garden was well-tended. It was filled with spring flowers of various colors. The maid opened the front door. Despite it being the day time, the corridor was still dark. It had the smell of an old house. With every step that they took, the floorboards beneath them creaked.

“...”

“...”

Yuuki was silent.

Kurumi was also silent.

Yuuki understood her feelings completely. This was because he was also feeling the same way that she was feeling.

(Doesn't it give off a bad feeling...?)

It's like they were going out into the ocean on a boat made of mud. Their chest beat harder. Their throats became dry.

“Come. My mistress is in here.”

They had felt like they had walked some kilometers, but in reality, the length they had traveled was probably only around 20 something meters.

A thick looking door made of oak stood in front of them.

“Go on. Please do not hesitate.”

The maid urged them further. The two of them were told to go in, but neither of them could take their next steps.

(...What should we do?)

(No no, even if you ask me that.)

They once again made eye contact. He wondered if Kurumi was also swallowed up by the atmosphere. She seemed pretty reserved right now.

(What should we do? Go back?)

(There's no way we would be able to pull back here. If you're a man then just go!)

She jabbed him with her elbow. Yuuki made his resolution.

He didn't know what lay ahead, however, but there's no way it would make him lose his life. He swallowed his saliva. Put his hand on the door knob. The door opened with a creak. What was beyond the door appeared in front of them.

And the things that Yuuki saw. It was the unhindered sight of the silver-haired girl just coming out of the bath.

“...”

“...”

Both Yuuki's and Kurumi's mouths dropped. After being told so much, and imagining all the things that could be there, the situation in front of them was completely outside of their expectation. Their thoughts and reactions couldn't catch up.

It was a completely unexpected development. That beyond the thick looking oak door, would be the bathing area, and the dressing room, and that it was in use.

“Hmmm? Chiyo is it?”

The silver haired girl opened her mouth. While fully nude.

Here eyelids were closed, as she was drying her hair with a bath towel,

“If you were going to come in, you should knock, you know? Even if we're close there are still some manners.”

“Yes. I'm sorry.”

The maid lowered her head deeply.

The silver haired girl—Kanruzawa Sekai didn't seem to have seen what was in front of her.

“Well, it's fine. By the way, Chiyo, where do you put my underwear? I had decided that I was going to wear that one today.”

“Are you talking about the underwear with blue stripes?”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

“That was just put into the laundry recently.”

“Muu, I see. Then it can’t be helped. Today, I’ll have to bear with the bear print underwear.”

“If you’re looking for that, then it is placed right in front of you.”

“You are also unthoughtful of other people. Shouldn’t you already know that my eyesight isn’t that great? Since I just came out of the bath, I’m not wearing any glasses and I can’t see anything at all...”

She stopped moving right there.



She had just picked up the glasses that were placed by the bathtub, and was in the middle of putting it on. Kanaruzawa Sekai's gaze was pointing towards Chiyo-san. To be exact, it was directed at the two other people there.

“ ... ”

She took off her glasses and cleaned them off. Once again, she put them on. After taking another look, her face began to burn red.

The scream that echoed through the mansion was quite pathetic.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai Rabukome – Volume 2: Chapter 2

第二章



“—Hohou. That’s a pretty interesting story isn’t it?” They were in the Kirishima family’s garden, having tea time after dinner.

Kirishima Haruko nodded repeatedly. Then she smiled, “In other words, you ended up seeing a naked female other than me. That’s what it means, right, Onii-sama?”

“No, the problem isn’t there...”

“No, that is exactly where the problem is.” The younger sister interrupted him, “This is obviously a violation of the rules. It could definitely be judged as a form of cheating.”

“There’s no way. First of all, I’m not even dating anyone. And of course, I’m not dating you, Haruko. You’re my sister after all.”

“Even though I would let you any time if you wanted to see me naked.”

“Why would I want to see my little sister naked?”

“Why? Of course it’s obvious what you would be doing with me if you did that ♡.”

“Stop it with that statement. You sound like an old man.”

Yuuki made a facepalm after sipping some tea. Was it wrong to tell his sister about what happened the previous day?

(In the end, she ended up hiding herself away after that...)

He remembered what happened at the mansion that day. They were guided by Chiyo-san until they were able to meet the silver haired transfer student for the second time. After which, the girl ended up closing herself off in her room due to being seen in such an abysmal state.

He didn’t even have a chance to say a greeting.

As they were leaving the mansion, the maid who ended up accepting the printouts had said, “*Please do come again.*” Whether or not he could take that at face value though, he couldn’t know for sure.

“And?” After asking a servant to refill her tea, Haruko asked. “Since you went out of the way to talk about something so unpleasant, you probably have something you want to confide in me about, right?”

“Yeah... Well, that’s true.”

A week has passed since the previous incident.

However, it should be obvious but the transfer student didn’t come to school once.

The incident was not due to Yuuki (supposedly, definitely). Still, it’s not like he didn’t feel any sort of responsibility. After all, he still had the position of being a class representative. If possible, he would want Kanaruzawa Sekai to once again go to school.

“Do you have a good idea?”

“Fumu. Well, I guess it’s still a request from Onii-sama. Still, it’s also bothersome for me to think about.”

While smelling the tea, his sister stared at him,

“Despite it being that Onii-sama would be cheating on me, you probably wouldn’t take heed of my warnings and continue to go and meet with the transfer student, right? Lending my hand out freely to someone like that...”

“Tonight, you can sleep in the same room as me. In the same room and on the same bed. ”

“The exchange is now set, okay!? Please leave it to me, in the meantime Haruko will think of some good idea!”

His sister smiled immediately. It was only at times like these where his beautiful adult looking little sister actually looked her age as a young girl.

“I say that but,” Haruko made a thoughtful expression, “I don’t really have any advice to give you at the moment. For now, you should continue your contact with the transfer student. It starts from there I suppose.”

Then, she began her analyzation Most likely, the transfer student was ignorant of the world.

Being a shut in, she had little experience of the outside world, and despite her beautiful silver hair and red eyes, she had her own complex when it came to her appearance. She doesn't seem to think positively about living in such a wealthy looking house, so it can be said that her family relationship isn't exactly blessed.

However, from her words and her behavior, her honest personality didn't seem to be hiding anything. In addition, at least from the first day that the transfer student had shown up, she not only showed willingness to go to school, but also showed willingness to communicate with others.

"I believe," His sister stuck out her index finger, "The difficulty of capturing the transfer student, is at the level of a small kitten that isn't quite used to other people. If you just try to feed her something, she'll probably come around eventually."

"You think so? It would be nice if it was just that."

"Does my analysis seem wrong in anyway?"

"No."

Rather, it seemed to match. It was almost the same as the impression that Yuuki had from watching the transfer student.

"I'll at least do some more investigation from my side. I'll look into the transfer student. I am somewhat curious after all."

"Yeah, it would help a lot if you did."

"However, Onii-sama, please do your best to not get too deeply involved, okay? Onii-sama has promised your future to me after all."

"I have no memory of ever making that promise."

"But Onii-sama promised to let me sleep with you in the same room and the same bed! It'll be great! Today is going to be a pajama party. Let's prepare a lot of tea and snacks. Tonight, I won't let you sleep

until the morning!”

“Wait wait. Aren’t you coming to my room in order to sleep?”

†

The next day.

Yuuki once again visited Kanaruzawa’s mansion.

“Welcome, Yuuki-sama.” The maid, Chiyo-san, greeted him in front of the door. It was as if she had expected a guest today. “We have been expecting you. Please come in.”

“Ah, thank you. Excuse me.”

On the other hand, Yuuki had not expected anything. He was a little put off after being met with such a greeting,

“Ummm. Today, I came without any previous notice. It was just a bit of a whim you could say. You could say that I just wanted to see how she was doing...”

“Thank you for your concern. Where is your companion?”

“No. I came alone today. It has nothing to do with Koiwai-san.”

“Understood. Now, go ahead.”

Niko niko. [1]

Niko niko.

She seemed to be in a really good mood. It seemed to be very welcoming, but he couldn’t help to feel that there was something behind that smile.

“Umm. Sekai-san, how was she... after what happened?”

He asked her as they cut across the garden and into the hallway.

“How was she? As in?”

“Umm, how should I say this? Last time, there was that accident. We ended up seeing Sekai-san who was just coming out of her bath. How did she react after that? Something like that that?”

“Since then, she hasn’t spoken a single word.”

Niko niko.

Niko niko.

She seemed to be in a really good mood.

“This time, she told had told me that she wouldn’t talk to me, wouldn’t look at me, for the rest of her life. It seems like she was very angry.”

“About that... sorry, really.”

“It isn’t something for Yuuki-sama to apologize about. It is completely my responsibility. Please do not mind it.”

“Thanks. I owe you one.”

“Was her chest big?” That question came out without any warning. Chiyo-san’s smile didn’t break, “My mistress has some insecurities about her own bodily proportions. However, don’t you think she has herself a well-endowed chest?”

“Haah.”

“Don’t you think so?”

“Ah, well. Yeah, I do think so.”

“Please let the person in question know about your thoughts. She will definitely be most pleased.”

“No but, isn’t she bothered by her chest? If that’s the case—”

“She will definitely be most pleased.” She insisted further.

To which Yuuki could only answer, “Y-yeah.”

He had thought the maid was not a very straightforward person... from that though, he was convinced of one thing. This person is definitely a sadist. Even though she looks kind and gentle, there is no mistake about it.

“My mistress will be inside this way.”

They had arrived in front of a door.

Things that happen once can happen again. So just in case, Yuuki asked. “I hope not but...”

“What is it?”

“Once the door opens, she won’t be naked again, right?”

“Are you perhaps looking forward to that?”

“There’s no way that’s the case!”

“Please do not worry. This place is not the bathing area after all.” Saying that, the maid knocked on the door. “It’s Chiyo. Is it alright for me to enter, my mistress?”

Kon kon.

Kon kon.

“...”

There was no response. If she’s still mad it’s no wonder.

“Now, please go ahead.” Chiyo-san urged him on with her eyes.

He had no intention of backing down after coming this far. “Excuse me.”

He opened the door. Then, he took one step into the room. There, what he saw there was the pitiable figure of the silver haired girl in the middle of changing into clothes.

“She isn’t in a bath, and neither is she naked.” Chiyo-san said that with a smile. “Well, being in the middle of changing would have been

a possibility, I guess.”

“—Ch” Kanaruzawa Sekai opened her eyes wide. Her face became completely red, and her body trembled as she yelled.

“Chiyoooooooooooooooooooo!” She quickly hid behind the table and continued to change, “It wasn’t just once but now twice! What is this!? What are you thinking!?” Showing only her head, she protested with tearful eyes.

However, the maid kept her cool smile,

“Since there we have a guest, I brought them in.”

“It shouldn’t be, so I brought them in! Why did you not say a single word to me again!?”

“I knocked.”

“Besides knocking, there’s a lot of other things, right!? What idiot would bring them in while I’m changing!”

“However, my mistress, didn’t you say that you wanted to get closer with your classmates from school. If that’s the case, seeing you in this current appearance would be—”

“There’s a lot of other ways to do that, right!? Other than showing off my naked body while I’m changing there’s so many other ways! Besides, even if I am to show myself like this, there is an order to things, isn’t there?”

“If my mistress were to follow the proper procedures and go to school like you should have, then there would never have been a need to be in this situation in the first place, right?”

“Hey, shut up, be quiet! The previous time, even this time, I can’t take it anymore! You’re fired! Get out of here right now!”

“Is that really alright? If I’m not there, you wouldn’t know where you’re underwear or other various things were placed.”

“It’s fine already, no get out!”

Chiyo-san, while smiling, turned heels and backout. As she was passing Yuuki, she whispered quietly, "I leave what's left to you." Even if she said something like that he was quite troubled.

"Really, that woman..."

Her face was red with anger as the silver haired girl groaned. Finally, she had noticed Yuuki, standing there with a blank face and her face turned red for a completely different reason as she looked downwards.

"Ummm... So..." It was such an awkward atmosphere. "Is it better for me to leave? The maid has left to go off somewhere after all. I'll come again some other time."

"N-no!"

The silver haired girl raised her face. Seemingly desperate, she opened and closed her mouth,

"Stay, yeah, it's better for you to stay! Rather, I want you to!"

"I see. Then, I'll do just that."

"T-that's right. At times like this I'm supposed to offer tea. After all, a guest has come. Heey, Chiyo! Ah, Chiyo is not here anymore!"

"Didn't you just fire her?"

Yuuki was amazed,

"Anyways, for now, calm down. I just came to see your face today that's all."

"I-I see. That's true. Yeam."

Kohon kohon, she cleared her throat.

She organized her appearance and sat down in her chair, "Sorry about that. Is it alright if I have a little bit of time?"

"That's fine, but what are you going to do?"

“Deep breathing.”

“... Please do as you'd like.”

“I'm grateful for that.”

Saying that, the transfer student really started to take deep breaths.

(Such a weird girl.)

Yuuki thought.

Her way of speaking is already a little weird. It was the first time he had ever been called with the word “you” [2]. He was wondering whether the transfer student had the so-called chuunibyou.

(For now I'll check things out?)

Across the table, Yuuki sat and faced the transfer student.

Then, he confirmed the room's interior.

It was a nice room. It was wide and had nice aesthetics. And neither was it overly vain.

When it comes to furniture, there was really only a bookshelf, a bed and things like that. Just the bare minimum.

“Somehow, I'm sorry.”

After seeing that she was just about done with her deep breathing, Yuuki called out to her.

“I intended to come here just for a quick checkup, but I guess I should have contacted you guys first before coming here.”

“N-no.”

The transfer student answered with a high pitched voice.

While shaking her hands and head vigorously, “Please don't worry about it. Besides, even if you decided to contact us first, Chiyo probably wouldn't have mentioned anything about it still. She is that

type of woman.”

“I see. If that’s the case then it’s okay.”

“Yeah. As such, everything is alright.”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

They couldn’t keep the conversation going.

As expected from a shut in like Kanaruzawa Sekai, her communication abilities aren’t very high.

On the other side, Yuuki didn’t know what to do with her. It was like there wasn’t any handhold or something like that. Basically, he couldn’t keep up with the flow.

(... What am I doing, exactly?)

Why was he alone right now with the transfer student? There was no one else to follow up now. Even if he wanted to leave now, he couldn’t.

(Ummm. What should I do?)

Yuuki continued to think.

He tried to think of a way to escape this awkward atmosphere.

Is there some sort of ingenious plan—then, he remembered some small piece of wisdom that he was given.

It was advice that the maid had given him earlier.

“Umm, you see. Kanaruzawa-san.”

“Y-yeah. What is it?”

“Your chest, it’s very pretty.”

“ ... ”

He tried his best to say it in a bright tone. There was also a little bit of a hesitation in his voice. Just in case, he had made preparations to just brush it off if need be.

However,

“Aauu...”

After freezing for a moment, the transfer student’s reaction came out as she turned red,

“Uuu... gusu...”

The moment that tears came out of the corner of her eyes Yuuki gave up.

“S-s-s-sorry! That was my bad!”

He lowered his head in the form of giving a dogeza [3].

“I was told by Chiyo-san that if I said that you would definitely be pleased! That’s why it just happened!”

“... Chiyo?” The transfer student’s expression changed. Her shame turned into a red fury. “That rotten maid!”

She sharpened her gaze and yelled,

“That woman always always does this! Without any warning! This time, this time for sure, she’s fired! Even if she apologizes, I definitely won’t forgive her!”

Seemingly quite annoyed, she swung her arms and legs around in order to express her anger.

It was somewhat cute. Her emotions were shown clearly.

“Bu...kukuku.”

Yuuki unconsciously let of a laugh and when she noticed, the transfer student once again grew red in embarrassment.

“T-there’s no need to laugh. I really am mad, you know?”

“Hahahaha, sorry sorry. But I mean, it’s pretty cute.”

“Mugunuu...”

The transfer student puffed out her cheeks.

Yuuki continued to ask further.

“Is that maid, always like that?”

“Yeah, that’s right. At any chance that she finds, she tries to toy with me. She’s such a rude woman.”

“Heeeh. I guess you can’t judge a person by their appearance.”

「
“Don’t be fooled by her. That person is always calm, and looks to be clever, but her mind is only filled with evil thoughts.”

“Are you not good with Chiyo-san?”

“Of course I’m bad with her. I’m grateful that she has looked after me for such a long time, but it comes with the fact that she always does whatever she wants. She really isn’t maid like at all.”

“I see. To be honest, I’m also bad with that person. It’s like I don’t know what she’s thinking of behind her smile.”

“Yes, that’s right! She looks good from the outside, so everyone ends up deceived! For that point, you are smart. To be able to see through the true nature of that rotten maid. It isn’t something that’s very easy to do.”

“Is that so? Well, thank you for that.”

“Listen to this. That girl is really terrible. For example, just earlier—”

... If what developed was all according to her plans, then the maid really would be an outrageous strategist.

Finding the chance to badmouth the maid, Kirishima Yuuki and Kanaruzawa Sekai quickly broke the ice between them. If it’s about saying bad things about Chiyo-san, the transfer student easily spoke

her mind. On the other hand, Yuuki just listened as she continued to speak. Usually, in this place where there weren't very many other people, she never had that much of a chance to interact with others.

Soon after, the transfer student went, "...Ah," and blushed. "S-sorry. It was just all just me talking."

"No. It's alright, completely fine."

Yuuki smiled and shook his head. Since the maid is fired now, it should be about time to go now.

"Then, it's about time I left for today."

"Y-you're already leaving...?"

"Yeah. I only came to check up on you after all."

"I see... yeah. It can't be helped."

The transfer student looked down dejectedly. However, she quickly lifted her face.

"U-ummm."

"Yeah?"

"Will you come again? Today was really fun... you listened to me talk a lot after all. I wish to talk to you a lot again."

"Got it. Let's talk again some time."

Yuuki smiled and nodded.

"Yeah! It's a promise!"

The transfer student's smile was like a blooming flower.

"But you know?"

Yuuki nailed her in a bad spot,

“*“Will you come again?”* is something that I should be saying, right?”

“... Munu?”

“Kanaruzawa. Will you come again to school?”

“Mu...”

The transfer student faltered.

Then, for a little while, she looked right, then looked left. She looked towards the floor and then to the ceiling. All the while, fiddling around with her fingers.

Eventually, she looked at him with upturned eyes and spoke hesitantly.

“... If you will go to school with me. Then, I'll go.”

“Alright.”

Yuuki replied immediately.

“I'll arrive in the morning tomorrow. So make sure you properly prepare to go to school, okay? Changing your mind halfway and saying, as expected, I don't want to go, something like that is not allowed, okay?”

“G-got it. That won't happen.”

“OK. Then, see you tomorrow.”

While waving his hand, he left the room.

The transfer continued to nod, waving her hand while sending him off.

(What am I going to say to Haruko...?)

On the way home, the thought of his sister's anger came into Yuuki's mind. Well, if it's this much, she'll probably forgive him. It was because he followed her advice that this development occurred after all.

... Now then.

He really could understand that the seemingly otherworldly transfer student, was really just a normal girl at heart. The “feeding” will start from here.

TL Note:

1. An onomatopoeic that signals someone’s smiling, the literal translation of “to smile”.
2. She uses a very old-fashioned form of the word “you”.
3. The kneeling directly on the ground and bowing to prostrate oneself while touching one’s head to the floor. Used to express deference to a person of higher status, as a deep apology, or to express the desire for a favor from said person.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai

Rabukome – Volume 2:

Chapter 3



He left the Kirishima family house at 6:30 the next morning, got on the train and arrived after a little more than 30 minutes.

“We have been expecting you.”

As soon as he had reached the Kanaruzawa mansion, he was greeted by the maid.

“My mistress will soon finish her preparations. I hope everything goes well today.”

“No well, thank you.” After lowering his head to the maid who was bowing to him, Yuuki spoke, “Still, how should I put this, Chiyo-san?”

“Yes?”

“Even though you were supposedly fired, you’re here like nothing happened at all.”

“Of course.” The maid smiled slightly, revealing her trademark smile, “My mistress and I are bound by a strong bond. We wouldn’t be separated just from something like being fired.”

“Haah. I see.”

“The deep affection that is between us cannot easily be broken apart by any other person. We are just like strong magnets, and are bound to go back to their original position, sticking to each other.”

“Kanaruzawa seemed like she seriously hated you at the time though?”

“Please wait here for a bit. I’ll bring out my mistress.”

After ignoring him, Chiyo-san went into the mansion. Shortly thereafter, from beyond the entranceway, he could hear a voice sound out. “A-a-a-as e-expected! I changed my mind!”

“Please don’t say stupid things. Yuuki-sama came here personally to bring you along.”

“Yesterday, I was just speaking in the heat of the moment! Now, now that I think about it, it’s impossible!”

“I won’t forgive you if you quite now. Come on, hurry up.”

... It seemed like she was struggling.

After waiting a while longer, the transfer student’s figure appeared, hiding behind Chiyo-san.

“Sorry for making you wait, Yuuki-sama... Now, my mistress, give a greeting.”

“G-g-g” Being pushed by the maid, Kanaruzawa Sekai was made to stand in front of him. She was in her uniform today. She was also properly holding a bag. Then, she squeezed out a thin voice, while looking down and fidgeting, “Good... morning...”

“Yeah. Good morning.” Yuuki also returned with a greeting. With a bright smile.

He tried as much as he could to ease her anxiety and tension. It was aimed at trying to ease the pressure of going to school for the first time in a while.

“Auu...”

The transfer student suddenly made a painful face.

“...Uuuu.” Her lips stayed shut as her red eyes became even redder, “Uuu... Gusu...” She cried.

Yuuki panicked, “Eh, wait. Did I do something? Did I say something wrong?”

“I-it’s not that... Hikku.” The transfer student covered her face, “I’m just so moved. Putting on my uniform like this, having a classmate come to take me to school, being able to exchange morning greetings. I’m very happy... Gusu.”

“Go on.” Chiyo-san gave the transfer student a light push.

It took everything that Yuuki had to give even a sigh in reply.

“... My mistress” Coming closer to Yuuki’s side, Chiyo-san whispered into his year. “She’s always been holed up inside the mansion after all. As such, I don’t believe this sort of development will happen again, however, I hope everything goes well.”

“H-hah.” Confused, Yuuki could only repeat the same reply. He was prepared for the fact that things probably would not go to smoothly. However, it seemed it may be more troublesome than he had expected.

†

They took the road to the station. Then, they got onto the train of the morning rush. Sometime in between, they went into a convenience store and bought some can coffee. One by one, Kanaruzawa Sekai ended up being moved by each thing.

“Uuu... the road to the station is quite long... Gusu.”

“Haguu... I have to endure in this crowded situation... Hikku.”

“Hawa... Why does such a bad drink, taste so good... Shiku shiku.”

When that happened, Yuuki would retort with, “This is nothing to cry about, right?”

However, “S-sorry. However, to me, these are all very new experiences...” After saying that, she looked like she was about to cry again.

(... What is this creature?) Beyond being amazed, Yuuki was somewhat impressed. It was the first time he had seen someone who cried this much. He was really starting to wonder whether he should include this under the sad drunk category.

“...Fuu. Such a refreshing feeling.”

They were lined up with their hips against a guardrail near the convenience store. The transfer student who had somewhat regained her calm let out a sigh.

“Today, I was able to feel moved so many times. This is also thanks to you. Ummm...”

“Yuuki. Kirishima Yuuki.”

“Yeah, Yuuki. I must thank you.”

“Your welcome... Rather, you were the one who became moved on your own. I didn’t really do anything, though?”

“That’s not true. Everything is thanks to you.”

“I don’t think that, though... Well, I’ll accept your gratitude.”

“Yeah. That would be great.”

She made an embarrassed smile. It was quite an attractive smile, “Then, I’ll be going back from around here. Ah, there’s no need to worry, I still remember the road, so I can go home alone.”

“... What?”

“There’s no need for you to worry. If that’s the case I can even have Chiyo come to pick me up.”

“Nono. You haven’t even reached the school. It all starts from here, doesn’t it?”

Yuuki retorted.

The transfer student’s expression wavered.

“Uuu... I have to go as expected...”

“Do you not want to go?”

To Yuuki’s question, she shook her head, “That’s not the case... I-I’m just nervous.”

“Nervous? For what?”

“What if, I’m not used to talking with other people?”

“You’re talking to me normally, though.”

“Yeah. That’s true. You are, well, special. The circumstances in our meeting was a little special, so being able to speak with you normally is not a problem.”

“Well, I guess. I was suddenly shown a service scene... two times in a row as well...”

“... Uuu... Gusu...”

“Aah, sorry! Forget what I said just now! It was just a light joke! *It’s a joke!*”

Soothing her again ended up eating quite a bit more time.

He wasn’t quite used to the delicacy of her feelings yet. She was the owner of a personality that seemed like it will fly away with a light blow, and scatter if you touch it.

(Well, it can’t be helped!)

He thought while looking at the back of Kanaruzawa Sekai.

Silver hair and red eyes. Living the life of a shut-in.

A weird way of talking, and she had a mentality that was moved at even the slightest things

There was no sign of her family inside the mansion, and Chiyo-san seemed to be the only maid. There were probably quite a few difficult circumstances. He couldn’t ask at a timing like this though.

“Hmmm, I know...”

After thinking for a bit, Yuuki made a suggestion.

“Then, why don’t we think of a plan?”

“A plan?”

“When it comes to your debut at school, the first impression is something that’s really important. Rather, the impact of it is

essential.”

“I see!”

The transfer student’s eyes sparkled. Then, she tilted her head, “Then? What exactly should I do?”

“Ummm, let’s see.”

Yuuki crossed his arms and thought.

Then, he noticed. The more he thought about it, the more he realized that the transfer student already had enough of an impact. She was able to draw in all his classmates just from showing herself after all.

Rather, the first impression was really good. What came afterwards was the problem though.

“For now”

He changed his angle and made his suggestion.

“How about you change how you speak?”

“Muu? What part, and how?”

“That, it’s exactly that way of speaking. It’s like a little bit stiff. Especially the way you call other people. That isn’t exactly great.” [1]

“I-I see. It isn’t great...”

“To be honest, it really stands out. Let’s talk a bit more normally.”

“However, I’m used to talking this way...”

“You just need to put some conscious effort into fixing it. Why don’t we try it out?”

“G-got it.” After nodding, the transfer student tightened her expression.

“For now, let’s try and start a random conversation. ...Ummm, then, do you have a favorite food? Is there anything like that?”

“I-I don’t really have anything I like or hate. I eat anything.”

“Do you have a favorite season? Mine is spring by the way.”

“I like any season. Each season has its own good parts to it. I think each of them are great.”

“Chiyo-san is really such a terrible person, right?”

“I know right? That person has such a bad personality and is so mean. Someday, I will find some way to get back at her. However, if I end up firing her, I won’t be able to take care of myself anymore. I can’t fire her. It’s very sad.”

“...”

“H-how is it?”

“Umm...”

He looked up at the sky. Something wasn’t quite right. It was like translating something straight from English. Moreover, her expression was super stiff. It felt like she was speaking with a face that looked like she was holding her breathe, so it made the people listening feel tense as well.

“Alright. Let’s move on to the next thing.”

“Fumu? Is the way I talk fine already?”

“Basically, it should be alright if we just deal with your nervousness. I was just thinking that it would be fine if we just find a method to that end.”

“I see. You have a clever mind.” Koku koku, the transfer student nodded. “Then? Did you have some sort of way?”

“Maybe, you can write the word for *person* on your hand and swallow it?”

“Doesn’t that only have the effect of being some sort charm?”

“Then, try taking deep breaths?”

“That doesn’t have much of an effect. I do it often so I know.”

It’s just as she said. It seems that any of the normal methods doesn’t have much hope to them.

“Well, how should I put this? Something like this is different from person to person. It wouldn’t be easy to find one I guess.”

“I see. It’s just as you have said.”

“Is there anything? Something where you would think, as long as I had this, I can calm down.”

“Mmm...” The transfer student made a difficult expression. Then she spoke out hesitantly, “It’s not like there isn’t... but...”

“Oh, there is? Then isn’t that fine?”

“Well, technically is one. Ummm...”

“What is it? Don’t hold back.”

Yuuki urged her on. After hesitating for a little bit, the transfer student took something out from inside of her bag. “It’s this.”

“...Hmmm?”

He narrowed his eyes and took a peek. To Yuuki, it was something he was used to seeing. It was a cigarette case, and the cigars that were lined up inside. “If I were to smoke this, I think I can calm down... how is that?”

“Well... how should I put it? This is...”

“No?”

“No.”

“I see. Of course that’s the case.”

Haa, the transfer student let out a sigh. Yuuki also made a sigh.

“Rather, you really can’t be judged by your appearance. The fact that you smoke cigars and stuff.”

“Yeah, well, it’s only at the level of being hobby though.”

“Actually, I also smoked in the past.”

“Is that so!? Then you’re just like me!”

“By the way, right now” Yuuki also looked through his bag, “I use this as a replacement.”

“Oh!”

The transfer student leaned over.

“That’s a chocolate cigarette, isn’t it!?”

“Yeah. You also like it?”

“More than just like it,” The transfer student once again looked inside her bag, “Me too, look, I also have them. Chocolate cigarettes. If I eat this in place of cigars, I can feel some peace of mind.”

“... Hahaa~”

Yuuki widened his eyes. What the transfer student held in her hand was definitely a chocolate cigarette. Moreover, it was the same brand as Yuuki’s.

“There are coincidences like this too.”

“I know right? It’s almost feels like you and I are the same.” Saying that, she laughed. It was a nice smile. This was the first time that Yuuki had seen Kanaruzawa Sekai make a genuine smile.

“... But well,” He scratched his head in embarrassment, “Neither of those will work. You won’t be able to keep it in your mouth forever, whether it’s the cigar or the chocolate cigarette. It’s not possible at school.”

“I see. It can’t be helped.”

The transfer student dropped her shoulders in despair. When she did that, he noticed it for the first time, that her face was looking a bit pale. Her already pale skin, seemed to look even paler, it seems that she isn't feeling very well due to some other reasons.

"Are you alright? You don't look to good."

"Yeah, no. It's not a problem. No need to worry."

"You definitely aren't alright."

If you look closely she seemed be breaking into cold sweat. Her breathing was also shallow.

"Yeah, like this, if you go to school, you'll just be going to the infirmary."

"Ye...ah."

"It's not possible to go to school today then. You should quietly rest at home."

†

After contacting Chiyo-san, she quickly arrived.

The car that came to pick her up was a white compact car. Thinking about how wealthy Kanaruzawa's family looked from the outside, it was a unexpected car model.

"Can I once again ask you?"

As they parted, the transfer student said that with a nervous expression.

"Can I ask you to come with me to school together? Next time, I'll properly arrive at school."

"Yeah. We can try again."

To such a halfhearted confirmation, she smiled and replied with an, "It's a promise!"

Like this, Kanaruzawa Sekai's first attempt at going to school ended with disgraceful results, having her retire halfway through.

Of course, at this time, Yuuki didn't know. Her existence and any contact with her, would become more of a problem than he had imagined. And that he would eventually have to bear that burden on his own two shoulders.

TL Note:

1. She refers to people in a very archaic form rather than by their name or more modern ways.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai

Rabukome – Volume 2:

Chapter 4

第四章



A few days later.

“Fuun. That seems tough...”

They were inside Murakumo Private High School’s Year 3 Class A classroom. Koiwai Kurumi summarized her impressions in one statement. She continued to speak while balancing a mechanical pencil between her nose and lips, “Well, even for you, it seems troublesome, Yuuki-kun. I don’t think looking after Kanaruzawa-san is something someone would normally do. You’re really setting an example for being a class representative.”

“Koiwai-san, you’re also a class representative, right? Won’t you help a bit?”

“Well... I don’t really like to butt into other people’s business...”

The two of them faced each other across the desk. After being asked a favor from the teacher, they were in the middle gathering the printouts. Yuuki and Kurumi were the only ones left in the classroom after school. There was no sign of any other students.

“Rather, I think this is really unexpected coming from you.”

“Unexpected? What is?”

“The fact that you decided to look after Kanaruzawa-san. You’re normally a good person, but I didn’t think you would be one to do this, you see?”

“You think so?”

“Yeah. You’re not one to be super distant, but neither are you one to be passionate, or anything like that. That’s why the current situation seems unexpected.”

“From how I see it,”

He spoke while lightly stretching his shoulders, “I’m one to go with the flow of things. This time, well, I feel like I have some sort of role to fulfill, you see. That’s why I’m doing it.”

“So, you’re saying you’re easily pushed along.”

“... I guess I can’t deny that.”

“Well, that’s true. You becoming a class representative like this was also because I asked you to.”

“Now that you mention it, your invitation was super persistent. You asked me every single day to become a student representative with you.”

“Was it annoying?”

“No. I’m extremely grateful for it.”

“Then everything is fine.”

Ehhen, Kurumi stuck out her chest. Yuuki made a bitter smile. From the school grounds that was nearing sunset, the sound of the baseball club running could be heard.

“And? What will you do now?”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Are you going to continue to look after her? Until she comes to school?”

“Well, I guess so.”

Even after it had become May since she first transferred, Kanaruzawa Sekai has never come to school even once. She was feeling bad, lacked the energy, and various other reasons were given. However, it seemed that she had the intention of wanting to properly go to school one day. If that’s the case, then isn’t it human nature to try and help to grant that wish if possible?

“Besides,” He added with a bitter smile, “Kanaruzawa is a character that really sticks out, right? It’s also similar to how I was.”

“That’s true.” Kurumi made a sigh. “You were always one to stand out, Yuuki. That’s how it always was.”

“Ahaha. I mean.”

“Yuuki-kun, your house is super rich, right? Shouldn’t you have just gone to a school for rich kids? Despite that you go to a normal school for normal people.”

“Somehow, doing something celebrity-like such as that isn’t my thing.”

“Also, you seem super muscular as well?”

“Well I do train. Despite how I look.”

“Speaking of your habit of lowering yourself to have the habits of normal people and trying to act normal. You’re also one to stick your head into various problems, which can be treated as quite a problem.”

“I like to think of it as being a man who doesn’t bend to the will of others. Rather, I think of it as a compliment.”

“Your gaze is sharp and invites a lot of misunderstandings as well.”

“Please leave that be, I was born with it after all!”

Yuuki became annoyed.

Kurumi snorted, “Well, thanks to me being such a nice and cute classmate, you were able to be saved from being looked upon badly.”

“Yeah, about that. I have no choice to but to admit that I owe you one for that, yeah.”

“If I wasn’t there, Yuuki-kun would be completely alone. Now and in the past.”

“Yeah, please. I have no room to argue against that.”

“Are you grateful?”

“I am. I really am.”

“Do you like me?”

“Eeh, well, yeah I really do. Really.”

“Fumu. That’s fine I guess.”

She smiled. Yuuki made an inner sigh of relief. It was true that he had a lot to owe her to. As such, Haruko can’t just get rid of Koiwai Kurumi very easily.

“Well, I think it’s all good.” Kurumi said that while poking his cheek playfully, “I, as well, would like Kanaruzawa-san to come to school if possible.”

“Right?”

“I’m a class representative, and I’m quite fond of cute girls after all. If that girl were to come and join our class, I’m sure it will all be very fun.”

“Yeah, right? If that’s the case then—”

“However, I won’t do it.” She said that while smiling. “As such, it falls to Yuuki-kun to be the one to do it. I’ll leave it to you to have Kanaruzawa-san come to school and fit in. Thank you.”

†

In fact, this transfer student was in a bit of a pinch. Whether it was within Year 3 Class A, or whether it’s within the Murakumo High School as a whole, Kanaruzawa Sekai’s presence became weaker and weaker.

She became less and less of a conversation topic for her classmates. At first, everyone was making a huge fuss about it and now they’ve become quite indifferent to her—this of course could just be said to be a result of human nature. A 3rd year high school student who could stay curious about a girl that doesn’t show up would really have to have a lot of free time.

The exceptions were Yuuki, Kurumi, and also the homeroom teacher who could not abandon his student.

Then, one day. That homeroom teacher ended up calling out and

saying this. *“Kirishima, I leave Kanaruzawa to you.”*

“Yeah...”

... He was entrusted with her. He couldn't refuse even if he wanted to.

There was the fact that he held sympathy with the transfer student for having various troubles like him. He also felt that he couldn't let go of his duties as a class representative. Besides, as someone who didn't have very many friends, he had a lot of time to spare. However, more than anything...

He held interest in the human called Kanaruzawa Sekai. Someone who seemed otherworldly to the eye. Having honesty and a personality that was just off from the normal common sense. And various other things.

He felt like he wanted to know more. He wanted to know what type of person this transfer student really was.

†

Behind the open door, it was quite a feast.

“... Oh”

The smell of alcohol.

Smoke wafting through the air.

A half-naked girl.

“Chiyoooooooooooo!”

Then came a pitiful scream.

“You are fired, today, I definitely won't forgive you! I told you to tell me whenever Yuuki comes over, and you had confirmed it with a confident expression after all. Get out, get out right now!”

She hid behind a chair, quickly changed into clothes, and all in one

breath, Kanaruzawa Sekai stood back up.

“Well then, Yuuki-sama,”

Chiyo-san, who had guided him through the mansion, made a bow,

“Since I have been fired, I’ll have to excuse myself. I wish you well for everything after.”

“Ah, yeah. Thanks.”

Yuuki watched the maid as she backed out of the door. She really was someone who doesn’t learn.

“Uuuuuu, that damn maid...”

With teary eyes, Sekai spat out an insult.

“Even if she were to apologize I definitely will not forgive her... I hope that she ends up tripping and falling to her death...”

“I also concur with that notion. It would be better to have that maid learn from her mistakes at least once.”

“Yeah! Exactly!”

“By the way...”

He looked around the room until finally, Yuuki snapped, “You really went at it, huh.”

“Muu. No, this is...”

Sekai had her words stuck. The bottles of alcohol were lined up in a narrow line on the table. Next to it all, a mountain of used cigars.

“I didn’t intend to show this to you.”

She let out a wavering excuse, “I know that this isn’t anything to compliment. That’s why I intended to hide it and sneakily do it. It’s true. Please believe me.”

“Even if you hide it, what’s wrong is wrong.”

“Besides, I hadn’t drank any alcohol or smoked anything for a long time now. However, recently there have been a few things weighing on my mind, so I just ended up starting up again.”

“It seems like something someone would say if they were in the middle of quitting and decided give up.”

“... Uuu... Gusu...”

“Eeeh, stop it. It’s nothing to cry about.” While trying to calm down the owner of the room who was just about to start crying, Yuuki sat down in an empty seat.

Sekai, who had stopped crying, sat down across from him,
“Regardless, I welcome you, Yuuki. You did good coming here.”

“Thank you very much. By the way, you still haven’t come to school, as usual.”

“Mugu... I am quite ashamed of that.” She gave look of dejection.

Yuuki tried to speak to her with as bright of a voice as possible,
“Then would you like to go to school together again? How does tomorrow sound?”

“...I’m grateful for your considerations, but I don’t have the confidence.”

“You don’t have confidence?”

“I was forced to notice the other day. The day that you took time to go to school with me. I am, as expected, talentless in my ability to go to school.”

It was a completely new declarative statement. However, he also thought of it as having its own merits. Going to school on a fixed day, at a fixed time is something that requires a certain amount of skill and societal experience. If that wasn’t the case, there should be no way someone would fail at going to school.

“Well, it’s fine if you don’t go to school though.”

Yuuki let out his true thoughts.

“It isn’t like you can’t live your life if you don’t go to school. If you don’t have any talent for it, then even more so, right? You just need to find something else that you do have talent in.”

“... Munu.”

“Besides, Kanaruzawa, you live in such a nice house, and even have a maid wait on you. You don’t seem to be living in a situation that is holding you back for anything? If that’s the case, there’s no need to go to school. You don’t need to push yourself.”

“...”

Sekai looked downwards. She furled her eyebrows, fiddled with her fingers, and opened her mouth as if she was saying heeh.

“But,” Then she spoke in a small voice. “Still, I would like to go. To school. I want to properly go to school at least once. If I don’t, I... yeah, somehow... I feel like I didn’t live with my chest held high.”

“I got it. Then, I’ll help.” He gave an instant response. “You want to go but you can’t, but you still want to go, right? That’s fine, then, I’ll help. I’ll accompany you for however long it takes for you to become good at going to school.”

“... Really?”

“Well, to be honest, I’m not exactly one that fits into school that well either. That’s why, we’re in similar situations. And so, if possible, I would also like to get better at that. So, the two of us can put effort into it together. What do you think about that?”

“...”

Sekai’s expression became a little brighter. Koku, koku, she nodded repeatedly, “Yeah, I see. I think that’s good. I think it’s really good. Why don’t we do that, Yuuki. Let’s try and do something about it together.”

“Yeah. Let’s.” Yuuki also smiled and nodded.

Now, they would need to take the first step. “So, let’s try to think of some sort of plan.”

“Plan?”

“I don’t think you can just go to school like normal, you see. So let’s try thinking of a few possible ways.”

“Fumu fumu.”

“A way to get you to be able to go to school, a way to make sure you can fit in at school. Basically, let’s think of a few different things.”

“Yuuki, do you have any ideas?”

“Well, yeah. I did at least think about it before coming...”

He waited for a bit.

Sekai leaned forward to listen more closely.

“First is the hair. That pure white hair. And your red eyes.”

“Muu?”

“Was it originally that color? Or did you dye it?”

“It was this color originally, what about it?”

“Then, let’s make it a normal color. Let’s make your hair black, and give you some colored contact lenses for your eyes. That’ll change quite a bit, you know?”

After all, Kanaruzawa Sekai stood out too much. A neat face that would anyone turn and look. An otherworldly air that would be hard to forget. Both are elements that would make it hard to blend into a community—even bigger points are her hair and eyes. With these, it wouldn’t be easy for her to be able to fit in at school.

“Fumu...”

Sekai lowered her gaze.

She ran her fingers through her own white hair.

“It’s a fine idea... but I’m sorry, I can’t exactly go on with it.”

“Why? Do you have some sort of policy that goes against it?”

“It isn’t that.”

“You don’t like the idea of changing it now?”

“It’s also a little bit different from that. How should I put this...”

She touched her hair, then rubbed her eyelids,

“I’ve had it for such a long time. I did hate it a little bit that it was different from most other humans. But, it’s already a part of me. If possible, I don’t want to change it.”

“Hahaa, I see.”

“Or you know, it’s like that. Your hair is something that stays with you for a long time as a friend, right? It’s almost like parting with a long-time friend, so it’s somewhat sad. I feel really bad about it... but, yeah, I still just can’t cut it.”

“I see. Then it can’t be helped.”

“H-has this lowered your opinion at all...?”

“Just from that? No way.”

Yuuki stroked his chin. In truth, that was currently the fastest and most direct idea that could achieve an effect. But, if it’s not possible then it can’t be helped. The sad part was that there was no other idea he could think of that would be just as fast and simple.

“The other thing, would be, let’s see. Something like changing your name?”

“My name?”

“I mean, your name seems like such a huge exaggeration. Putting aside Kanaruzawa, it’s Sekai, you know? *The World*, you know? If it

wasn't a pen name, no one would normally have a name like that."

"... I've already had this name for as long as I can remember though."

"How about we try changing it to Yamada Hanako?" [1]

"Th-that's a little bit..."

"What? Do you not like it? Apologize to all the Yamada Hanako's in this country."

Even if he said that, if someone were to tell Yuuki to change his name to Yamada Tarou, he wouldn't do it. [2]

"Yeah. Well, I guess I'm stuck."

Yuuki raised both his hands as a sign of giving up.

"Somehow, I don't have any other ideas. Yeah, it's impossible."

"N-no way... Gusu"

"Listen to the end of what other people are saying, alright? It's just that any fast and easy ways are gone."

Despite what he said, there was nothing he could think of right now. He thought about it for a bit, then rummaged about inside his bag,

"Well, for now, how about this?"

"...Mu?"

"Chocolate cigarette. If you eat one, you'll calm down a bit right?"

Being told that, Sekai accepted one of them.

She nibbled at it, and as she did, she seemed to hold back the feeling of wanting to cry.

"Is it good?"

"... It originally wasn't something that tasted great anyways.

However, it's calming."

"Okay. Then, let's think about it slowly."

He sank down into his chair. Yuuki as well took out a chocolate cigarette and stuck it into his mouth.

It was currently May. There was a gentle sunlight, the garden was full of fresh growing plants, and the sounds of birds chirping as they rested on branches.

"In the first place," He spoke out after swallowing the chocolate, "What I know about you is very little. That isn't good."

"Not good as in?"

"Giving advice to someone you don't really know, is a little... I don't think it will go well. The first part of counseling should be getting to know the other person, right?"

"I see. That is very reasonable."

"As such, please tell me, about various things."

"Even if you ask me to tell you stuff..."

Sekai made a troubled expression, "I'm an existence that is just as you see it. A shut-in, that's cowardly and has a weird way of speaking. What you see is what you get. As for my living situation—you can imagine right?"

"Well yeah... I can imagine..."

"That's why, there isn't much I can say."

Saying that, she made an even more troubled expression.

(Well, it's fine.)

Yuuki thought.

(If I stay with her long enough, I'll get it even if she doesn't want me to.)

Besides, it doesn't seem that this shut-in girl wants to be asked to much about her complications. If that's the case, he won't ask more. They were not at that stage yet.

"More importantly,"

Sekai proceeded one in earnest,

"I want to know about you."

"About me?"

"Yeah. I don't know much about you. That's why I want to know more."

"I see... about me..."

"Isn't that fine? Rather, the current situation is unfair. You are gradually learning more and more about me, but that is not the same on my side."

He just realized that. If you want to know about someone else, it is faster to have them know about you first. Deepening your relations and getting to know each other more are near equal to each other.

"Alright, I got it. Then, I'll tell you about myself."

"Yeah. Please tell me more."

"As such, why don't we go to my home?"

"...Heeh!?"

Sekai made a blank face.

Yuuki continued further, "Wouldn't that be the quickest way? If you come to my house, you can learn various things about me even if I didn't want you to. Of course, if it's not possible I won't force you—"

"It's not impossible! Let's go! I really want to go!"

"Then, let's go?"

“Yeah!”

... That’s how things ended up.

No matter how he looked over it, he felt that it was a good idea. Understanding each other more can also be the first step for the shut-in to get out. It was definitely killing two birds with one stone. He couldn’t see any demerits in it.

Except for one point.

†

Sure enough, his little sister was in a very bad mood.

“Please go back.”

That was the first thing she said.

“Please turn around right this instant, and then return from where you came. From then on, never show yourself here again.”

“Come on, Haruko.”

Yuuki chided his sister, who spat out such poison with an annoyed expression,

“Don’t say that to a guest. Give more of a smile, a smile.”

“Don’t want to. There’s no need for anyone in the Kirishima family to put up such a front for a thief.”

“Come on, don’t say that.”

They were at the entrance of the Kirishimas’ house.

The exchange between the siblings from earlier continued further.

“Anyways, please go back.”

Despite everything, Haruko was stingy,

“Besides, it’s lacking in common sense to come here so suddenly.

Even if I were to give a hundred steps and allow you to cross our entrance way, you should have informed us of this beforehand.”

“If I were to do this over and tell you, you definitely would be against it, right?”

“Of course. The only women who are allowed to enter this house are the people of the Kirishima family and maids who painstakingly take care of us. Besides those, the pests that try to involve themselves with Onii-sama should all be exterminated.”

“... Sorry about this, Kanaruzawa.”

Yuuki spoke to her in a small voice.

“My little sister is always like this, but if I’m here, she won’t do anything. So, please be relieved.”

“I-i-i-it’s alright.”

Sekai nodded repeatedly,

“There’s no problem, Yuuki. I’m not scared at all. Your little sister has been directing some killing at me for a while now, but I haven’t been minding it at all. Yeah, not at all.”

She made a forceful smile. In reality, she couldn’t even make a smile, and it ended up being a face where she was half crying.

“Anyways, please go back.”

His little sister crossed her arms, stuck out her chest, and repeated once more. It seemed that she was stubborn and wouldn’t give in.

(This girl is really stubborn after all...)

Yuuki let out a sigh. He was convinced that his sister was the reincarnation of Sokuten Bukou, as she had the strongest voice within the Kirishima family. [3] Given what the future holds, he wanted to overturn his sister’s decision here and now.

Yuuki continued to think. Then, he came up with a plan.

“Haruko.”

“It’s useless. No matter what you say, I won’t nod my head vertically.”

“Well, of course. You won’t bend once you say something, after all. That’s the good part about you.”

“Yeah, that’s one of my good points. What is it?”

“The condition for ‘the types of women that can enter the house’, you mentioned it earlier, but what was it again?”

“They need to be part of the Kirishima family, or one of the maids that work hard to take care of us. That’s what I said. What of it?”

“That’s right. You definitely said that right?”

Yuuki nodded with a satisfied face.

Then he smiled, “Then a maid is fine, right?”

“Yes?”

“*If it’s a maid.* Then. it’s fine, right?”

†

Unexpectedly, Sekai was all for it.

“Maid clothes? That’s a great idea!”

“To be honest, I’ve always wanted to wear them once. Maid clothes are really cute after all.”

“I’ve never had the chance to wear it before, but who would have thought it would come at a timing like this. Come on, I’ll try it out.”

After looking for a bit, they quickly found a set of closed used by the maids of the Kirishima family. Everything afterwards happened in a blink of an eye.

After contacting Chiyo-san who was just fired, she quickly came over

and helped with changing. The rest was just Haruko spouting out her complaints. She had so much to say that it felt like her scolding would never stop.

Just like that, Kanaruzawa Sekai who had ended up changing clothes appeared in front of them.

“...Hahaa. Well well.”

“...Mugunuu.”

“Doesn’t it suit her well?”

Yuuki.

Haruko.

Chiyo-san.

Inside the drawing room of the Kirishima house, each of them gave their respective comments.

“D-does it really suit me...?”

A deep blue one piece and a white apron. She was dressed in orthodox maid clothing as Sekai fidgeted embarrassingly.

“Please hold more confidence in yourself, my mistress.”

Chiyo-san said that while holding her chest high,

“It suits you more than anyone in the world, and you are more beautiful than anyone in the world as well. Yuuki-sama also thinks the same, right?”



“Right. It really does fit you.”

To Yuuki’s nodding, Chiyo-san held her chest even higher,

“Haruko-sama also thinks the same, right?”

“...Mugunuu.”

Haruko could only make a face as if she was eating a bitter bug. She was definitely very annoyed, so it seemed.

“I-I see. So it suits me.”

Sekai narrowed her eyes feeling uneasy. She then picked a part of her skirt, and spun around once. Eheheh, she giggled. The gesture that came afterwards was even more fitting than anything else.

“Yeah. It’s nice. It’s really really nice.”

“No matter what my mistress wears, it would fit her.”

“... Mugunuu.”

Yuuki and Chiyo-san both praised her, while Haruko was the only who seemed like she didn’t care. Haruko could only stand there as she shook her legs in anger.

“It’s too early to be happy!” She stuck her finger at Sekai. “I’ll forgive you for making me give up a hundred steps and allow you into the mansion of our family, but just wearing maid clothing doesn’t make you a maid. Isn’t that right, Kanarauzawa Sekai-san?”

“Munu...?”

“Since you are a maid, of course, I’ll make you do the jobs of a maid. The first thing is serving tea. Come on, hurry! *Hurry up!*”

“Serving tea!”

Sekai’s eyes sparkled, “I’ve always wanted to try it once. Please leave it to me. Chiyo!”

“Yes, my mistress.”

“I’ll be depending on you. Please teach me the way to serve tea.”

“Understood. Then, by Haruko-sama’s orders, tea will be coming right up. Of course, we will be borrowing your kitchen.”

The two maids cheerfully headed out of the room to prepare the tea.

“God! So frustrating!”

Bofun!

Sinking into the sofa, Haruko bit her thumb, “How should I scare her next... for now, let’s have her wipe the floor. And if I see a single speck of dust, I’ll make sure to give her a thorough scolding. Even if she cries, I definitely won’t forgive her.”

“Hey, Haruko. You better stop it now, okay? She’s a guest, okay?”

“There is no need to be treating an uninvited guest nicely. Also, who is she, that other maid? She came into our home so naturally, and acts as a maid as if it’s normal.”

“Chiyo-san is just that kind of person. Please don’t let it get to you.”

“I don’t care about Chiyo-san or whatever she’s called. It’s just that the smile she makes gets on my nerves. As such, let’s make sure to scare her too. We must show her how much ability one must need to become a maid.”

Niyari.

Haruko curled her mouth in an evil manner.

“Haruko.”

“What is it?”

“You’re like an evil step sister.” [4]

“That’s rude!? I’m still in elementary school!”

During that time, Sekai and Chiyo-san once again showed themselves. They carried a tea set on a steel cart. Assamu, Darjeeling. The nice smell of black tea came wafting over.

“Thank you for waiting.”

“T-thank you for waiting.”

Continuing after Chiyo-san, Sekai gave a bow. Then, with slightly

shaking hands, she began pouring the tea. If it was just her, you would wonder whether or not she would spill it, but there was a pro beside her. In the end, the tea was prepared perfectly fine.

From the antique cup rose a nice fragrance and steam. On the side, she began to bake a few snacks, and as they hardened the scent of them was mixed in.

“...Mugunuu.”

Haruko’s mouth curled her mouth into the shape of へ.

Yuuki put his mouth to the cup, then gave a nod. If compared to the tea that he normally enjoys with Haruko, it didn’t lose one bit.

“... It’s because the tea leaves that were used were nice!”

Haruko cried out while hitting the table.

“The tea in our house is the finest quality product after all! No matter who makes it, it’ll become good tea! Isn’t that right, Onii-sama!?”

“If I were to do it, the tea wouldn’t become like this. Admit it already, Haruko.”

“Don’t want to!”

Bui, she turned to the side.

“Sorry, Kanaruzawa.” Yuuki followed up with a bitter smile, “My little sister is basically always like this. Don’t let it get to you.”

“Y-yeah. I’m not bothered at all.”

“More importantly, it’s pretty good, your work as a maid. You’ve properly done it.”

“R-really?”

“Yearh. Really.”

“Was the tea good?”

“Yeah. It was good.”

“I see!”

Sekai's expression turned from worried to happy. Yuuki smiled and gave a thumbs up. Chiyo-san made a wide smile. Haruko on the other hand purposely clicked her tongue repeatedly so that others could hear.

(I guess we moved forward a step?)

Yuuki accepted it. Even if there was a lot of support, and that they had ended up coming over to his house, it ended with a bountiful harvest. Just a little more, the cowardly transfer student just needs one more push in the back. Then, she would be able to once again go to school, he thought.

“Haruko.” He called out to his sister who seemed to be in a really bad mood. “This is a little bit sudden, but there's something that I would like to ask advice for.”

“Don't want to.”

“Don't say that and listen. In truth...”

Is there a good way for Sekai to be able to go to school? Yuuki tried passing off the question to his smart little sister as everything that he had thought of had been bad.

Of course, it was a lost cause. Before that, getting his little sister to give out an idea that would help Sekai was already hard enough, and it could be said that the situation was a little too convenient.

“Haan? I don't know.” Sure enough, Haruko brushed it off. “It has nothing to do with me, and neither is it something that I want to be involved in. You can do whatever you want. Just do it without involving me.”

“Don't say that. We're depending on you.”

“It's useless even if you beg. For this matter, I will never in my life, be motivated to help.”

“Don’t say that. Please. Please?” Yuuki implored.

Haruko brushed it off as she continued to glare at her brother. “Then, isn’t it fine if she just wears a wig?”

She promptly threw out a proposal.

“You want to do something about how that white haired girl stands out, but she says that she doesn’t want to dye it, right? Then it’s fine to just put on a wig and hide it. If she doesn’t like that then she can just wear a hat to hide it. With this, it can be easily solved.”

“No no, Haruko.”

Yuuki made a bitter smile, “Please think about it more seriously. With this, there wouldn’t be much difference with just dying her hair.”

“That’s it!”

Sekai’s eyes sparkled.

“Of course, a wig, that’s a good idea! Even wearing a hat isn’t that bad. A hat can look really fashionable too. How about it, Chiyo?”

“I think that it’s quite good. I will put in a word at school.”

“Can you prepare a wig or hat quickly?”

“Of course.”

“That’s what she says, Yuuki!”

She directed her shining eyes towards Yuuki, “With this, the problems solved! Somehow, I feel like doing it now, so why don’t we do it tomorrow! This time, I’ll go to school properly!”

“Ah. Yeah. I see. If it’s fine with you, then it’s alright I guess.”

... It became like that. At this stage, Yuuki still did not really understand Kanaruzawa Sekai. Anyways, he could see though that she was just a little off from normal thinking.

(Well, we've at least moved forward a step.)

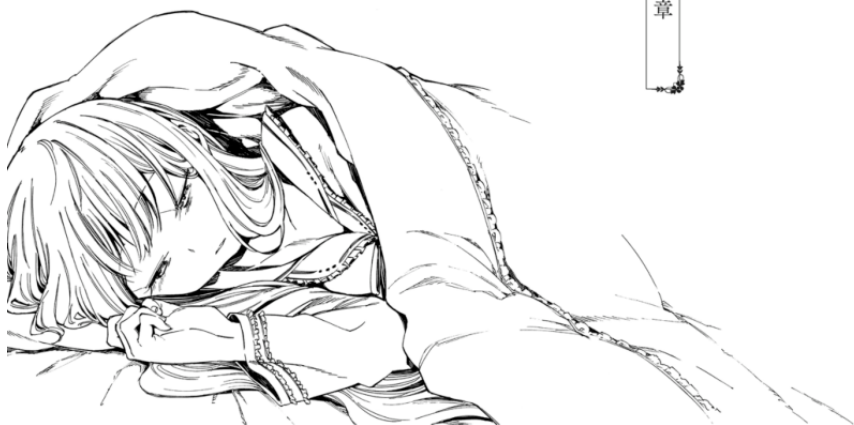
Anyways, the preparations were made. Haruko was fuming almost to a point beyond repair, but I will I'll try to help by holding back a bit. There's only a little bit left until Kanaruzawa Sekai will be able to go to school.

TL Note:

1. Yamada is supposed to be a super common last name and Hanako is a common first name for females.
2. Tarou is supposed to be a super common name for males.
3. Sokuten Bukou is supposed to be a female emperor.
4. Referencing Cinderella.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai Rabukome – Volume 2: Chapter 5

第五章



“If I accompanied her for long enough, I would understand even if she didn’t want me to.”

... That was what Yuuki was thinking.

Although he didn’t have enough of an understanding of her yet, it should be about time for him to see the true personality of the transfer student, Kanaruzawa Sekai. For example, the long amount of time that she spent as a shut in. All alone inside the mansion, what exactly was she doing? Has she been playing on the internet without end? Or was she hooked on some anime or manga? Or maybe she was living the life of a drunkard, hung up on cigars and alcohol?

“No, that’s not right, you know?” Sekai shook her head. Then she spoke with a boring expression. “If you’re asking what I did, then I’ll answer you. I slept.”

“Hahaa. Sleeping?”

“That’s right. I did nothing but sleep. I slept around in bed all day, and passed time, just waiting like that.” Then she added on to her explanation. “As such, my body isn’t that strong.”

†

Despite what she said, it wasn’t exactly that she actually slept the whole entire day. During her free time, if she had to explain what she was doing, then she would say that she read books.

“I read various types of books.” So Sekai said. “I’m not too picky about what I read. From within what Chiyo prepares for me, I end up picking up something that catches my eye.”

Asking her about the types of books she read, her reply included photography books, scientific journals, history books, and so on. Just by listening to that, somehow she seemed like a really smart person.

“I know, right? I’m actually really smart.” Saying that, she pushed out her chest. Unfortunately, because she acts like that, it always seems like she isn’t that smart. However, he didn’t put those thoughts into words as that wouldn’t be considerate.

She had a mature atmosphere, but contrastingly childish. The fact that both of those sides are a part of her personality is one of the charms of Kanaruzawa Sekai.

†

It can be said that people who read a lot tend to have a wide breadth of knowledge. However, in the case of Kanaruzawa Sekai, that was not the case.

Rather, her knowledge was very skewed. For example, she knew of the small mining industry within some minor country inside the Caribbean Sea, but she doesn't even know the name of an idol group that every citizen of this country would know.

"You know a lot of weird stuff, Kanaruzawa."

"Yeah. It's because I'm smart."

"But you don't really know very much about anything important."

"It can't be helped, right? I was a shut-in after all."

"If you're like this, then you can't become a proper high school girl, you know?"

"In order to become a proper high school girl,"

Sekai leaned forward, "What should I do? Please tell me."

"It's impossible to put it simply, though... for example, a high school girl might go to the restroom during break times in order to fix their makeup."

"Is that so? I didn't know that."

"Knowing how to do your eyebrows, apply foundations, and such. A girl that knows how to do that would probably be able to easily make friends, and would be able to have lots of conversations."

"I see. That's nice to know."

Then, the next day.

The unsightly appearance of Sekai, who had done her makeup without the help of Chiyo-san made quite the impact. This was also something that could be counted as another one of her charms, Yuuki thought.

†

Kanaruzawa Sekai wasn't clumsy only with her hands. Rather, she was clumsy with almost everything.

She often burns her tongue like a cat.

Tripping on nothing.

Often spilling when drinking something.

Unable to put on her shoes by herself.

Can't do two things at once.

Also, she sometimes bites her tongue while speaking.

"It's because my mistress is in some ways, quite talented." Chiyo-san made a face, as if to ask, so what. "Just because she's clumsy, it doesn't mean that anything is wrong. If the master is lacking in some area, it is alright as long as the maid follows through with it."

"Well, I guess so..."

"Does Yuuki-sama have something that he is unsatisfied with?"

"It's not exactly dissatisfaction. If Kanaruzawa ends up going to school, who will be there to follow up for her where she's lacking?"

"Ara? Is such an answer needed at such a late point in time?" Saying that, Chiyo-san smiled.

Yuuki laughed in response.

Nikkori.

Ahaha.

Nikkori.

Ahaha.

This exchange of smiles continued multiple times, during which her line of sight was always directly facing Yuuki. Following along with the flow of what seemed natural, Yuuki couldn't stop himself from forming a bitter smile. Although Kanaruzawa Sekai had already shown herself to be clumsy, that part of her would at some point in the future appear even more prominently—there was only a little more time until he would make that discovery.

†

“Hmmm, I see. So Kanaruzawa-san will finally come.” They were inside Murakumo Private High School, third year class A's classroom. While browsing through her homework, Koiwai Kurumi expressed her thoughts. “Yuuki-kun's effort has finally paid off. Congrats, congrats.”

“Yeah. Thanks.”

It was after school with just the two class representatives in the classroom. The classroom was dyed a red color by the lengthening day, and the cries from the cheering club could be heard from the courtyard.

“Tomorrow, probably.” Yuuki reported, while turning over the book that he borrowed from the library. “I believe that I should be able to bring her to school. She's currently making various preparations.”

“What type of preparations?”

“Preparing a wig, hat, or something of that sort.”

“Hahaa. I see.” Kurumi was working through her math problems while giving her reply. After staring at a reference book she ended up biting into her lip. “I guess that will be fine. Yup yup.”

“If she ends up coming to school I'll be depending on you, Koiwai-

san.”

“Of course. As much as I can. I would like to at least...”

Kaki kaki.

Kaki kaki.

The blank space on her notebook was slowly filled with numbers and symbols. Having the cheering club’s shouting as BGM, Yuuki flipped through the pages in his book, “It’ll take time, there’s no doubt about that.”

“For Kanaruzawa-san to fit into the school?”

“Yeah. But that just has to be taken slowly and steadily. She stands out a lot after all. There’s no easy way to go about it.”

“But you know, Yuuki-kun.” Kurumi said as she scratched her hair. “You might not have the leisure on working on it so gradually.”

“Eh? Why?”

“Mmm...” After a little bit of silence. Kari kari, the sound of something carefully being written into the notebook continued, “Let’s leave it as a no comment from me.”

“What’s that supposed to mean?”

“How should I put this...? There are various problems...”

“I don’t understand very much of it, but I can tell that it’s something that’s hard to say.”

“Well, I’m in a little bit of a weird spot...” Kurumi said, seemingly a little bit shaken. Then, she spoke with a self important attitude. “But you know, I’m your ally. Please be relieved about that at least.”

“Yeah. That’s something nice to hear.”

“I mean, we’ve known each other for a while, and you’ve helped me quite a bit over the years.”

"I feel like that's already broken even for a while now though. I should be the one to say that you have helped me out a lot."

"That's not true. That time, you ended up fighting because of me, Yuuki-kun. It ended with you being misunderstood. To the point where even now, I'm really your only friend. To be honest, that's all my fault."

"Nono. It's definitely not your fault at all, Koiwai-san."

"You're also really strong, you know? Adding on to that, you're terrible at holding back."

"About that, yeah, I'm sorry about that. It's completely my fault."

"Regardless, Yuuki-kun, you were always the type of person who couldn't leave something alone." She raised her head from her notebook. Then, she looked out the window and spoke nostalgically. "That part of you, is something that I think is great. It's also quite cool. That's why it's easily misunderstood, but the people that follow still understand, right? I'm like that, and so is your little sister."

"That's something nice of you to say."

"However, the part where both of you guys stand out, Yuuki-kun and Kanaruzawa-san, both of you are in the same boat. You also don't really talk to anyone beside me, nor do you get along with anyone else. Remember that, okay?"

"..." Yuuki scratched his cheek. He looked at the ceiling, before finally directing his gaze outside the window with Kurumi, "You know, Koiwai-san."

"What is it?"

"I was originally lost on whether or not I should say this. But as expected, it seems better if I were to say this."

"Haven't we known each other for a long time now, Yuuki-kun?" Yuuki changed his focus, and fixed his posture. Kurumi nodded quietly. "Say it. No matter what it is, I'll properly and seriously answer it. Wholeheartedly."

“... Got it. Then, I’ll say it.” He then made a short sigh. Yuuki once again once again corrected his posture, and then made weird expression. He then pointed at Kurumi’s notebook and made a suggestion. “Over there, shouldn’t it be Y and not X?”

“...” Kurumi furrowed her eyebrows. Then, she scanned her notes, and after reconsidering it multiple times, she spoke. “Yuuki-kun.”

“What is it?”

“That part of you, I somewhat dislike it.”

“That’s what I thought you would say.” Yuuki made a slight snicker, “I’m easily misunderstood, right?”

†

The next day.

As Yuuki had proclaimed, he brought Sekai to school. The time had just past 10 am. They were totally late.

“Well, it’s fine. Don’t worry about it.” They were lined up in front of the school gates with no one else there. Yuuki comforted his fellow classmate that had succeeded in going to school for the first time. “Now that you’ve gone this far, you’ve already made a large improvement. You can do this. That’s why there’s no reason for you to cry.”

“Uuu...” The crybaby of a classmate was already at the point of almost crying. “Sorry, Yuuki. Sorry for being always like this... gusu.”

“Nono, don’t worry about it. You were able to get to this point by walking on your own two feet. You rested a lot though.”

“We should have came on a car from the start, then we wouldn’t have been so late. However, I ended up being so selfish...”

“Nono. If you come by car, you’ll end up sticking out weirdly. Besides, you said that you wanted to walk here on your own two feet, right, Kanaruzawa-san. That’s why it’s fine if we’re late.”

“But because of that, you were also late...”

“It’s fine, we were just late. Don’t worry about it.”

“Uuuu...” His comforting had no effect, as Sekai’s tears came flowing out.

(Will she be like this, even from now on...?) Yuuki had to worry.

On top of a long black haired wig, she wore a beret. Whether or not there was any effect or not, she greeted him today with double the countermeasures. If it’s continues on like this, Yuuki himself was bound to run out of energy for this.



(Well, I guess it's okay.) Yuuki turned around his feelings. (She's cute like this after all!)

That's right. Kanaruzawa was cute. The black hair, the beret, and the uniform, all of it suited her.

For humans, what matters the most in the end is appearance. Because she already cleared that point, whether it was fitting into school, or

having the class accept her, her chances were definitely not low. As long as she grabs onto a chance, it'll work out. Probably.

"Let's go then, Kanaruzawa." Ton, he prompted her after hitting her on the back. "Just act normal, and it'll be alright. Just act normal. Don't do anything weird. If you just stay quiet, you're pretty cute, so everything will be okay."

"I-is that so? I'm cute? I see."

"Don't try to think of making your transfer student debut perfect. As long as you don't come out with anything negative, then it's fine."

"Yeah, I got it. I won't think about anything needless."

"Also, don't expect too much follow up from me."

"Got it. I won't."

"Good."

The chime rang at the same time as her nod. It signaled that the first period of class was now over.

It was during the break between class periods.

The combination of Yuuki and Sekai walking down the hall already stood out. She had hidden her silver hair, and was wearing her uniform like normal. It wasn't that they were doing anything weird either. It was just the fact that the existence of Kanaruzawa Sekai was one that stood out. Whether that was a good thing or not. It couldn't be helped for gazes to gather on her. That was the type of aura she held.

"Uuu..." And, she was already half crying.

On the way here (especially inside the train) she was exposed to the same sort of situation. With how hard her tear glands were working, the stream of tears coming out were starting to dry out. While trying to hide herself from as many curious gazes as possible, Sekai headed

towards the classroom.

Sliding open the door to the third year class A classroom, their eyes met straight away with Koiwai Kurumi.

“Yuuki-kun?”

“Hey. Good morning.”

“It shouldn’t be a hey, good morning. You’re completely late. Get it together, class representative.”

“Sorry, sorry.”

The other classmates only watched over them as the pair of class representatives made their exchange. Even the group that had been talking to Kurumi just a little while ago had moved further away. They had ended up giving a slight smile, with no greeting, trying to stay out of the conversation as much as possible. That was what Kirishima Yuuki’s position in class was like, or at least that was how it was until now. There was another reason for the half hearted adjustment from his classmates.

“Hey, good morning.” Kurumi called out to Sekai. She lightly stuck out her hand as if seeing how things would go.

“G-g” Sekai, in response to that, “G-g-g-g-g-ood m-m-morn” She turned bright red as she stammered out her words. Looking down, she fidgeted with her two hands, “...aau”

In the end, she didn’t say anything at all. Kurumi laughed lightly as she let it go, then returned to her conversation with her friends. At the same time, the weird atmosphere in the room softened, and the classroom returned to the same environment it was before.

(Thank you, Koiwai-san.) Yuuki expressed his gratitude within himself.

Just touching the surface but not going to deep. That way of going around things was as expected from her. Thanks to that, a situation where Sekai was isolated and was forced to make her way on her own was avoided. It could be said that the first stage was cleared.

“Kanaruzawa?”

“Y-yeah?”

“Your seat is over there. It’s next to me.”

“Y-yeah. Got it.” Koku koku, she nodded.

With unsmooth movements, Sekai moved to stand by her appointed seat. As the time passed, she began to pay attention to the other classmates around her. Yuuki also arrived at his own seat, and watched to see how Sekai was doing.

“...”

It was clearly shown in her expression that she was troubled. At a complete loss, she ended up standing straight back up from her seat, “Uuu... what should I be doing from now?”

She looked at Yuuki with tearful eyes.

That’s what was wrong!?

Yuuki looked up at the sky as he approached her, “Ummm. For now, you brought your textbooks, right? Put them into your desk.”

“L-like this?”

“Also, the next class is classical literature. Put the textbook for that on top of your desk.”

“I-is it okay like this?”

“Then, just sit there and wait. Class will start soon.”

“Y-yeah. I got it.” Sekai nodded repeatedly. She straightened out her back and continued to wait. Her expression clearly showed her nervousness, so much that even Yuuki was getting anxious just looking.

Kiin koon kaan koon.

The chime rang at a good timing, as the classical literature teacher

entered the classroom.

The first class went smoothly. The teacher that was in charge of the class was an elderly man who could read the mood. He didn't end up calling on the student that had shown her face for the first time, nor did he try to make a big deal about it. It was something to be thankful for. If she was called on to answer something on the blackboard, there's no doubt that some sort of trouble would come up.

Kiin koon kaan koon.

The chime rang and the classical literature teacher left the classroom. Slowly, the students stood up from their seats. The next class was physical education.

"Kanaruzawa." Yuuki spoke to Sekai, who was busy staring at the people around her, "I won't be able to go with you to change. So I hope that somehow, things go well."

"Y-yeah. I got it."

"More importantly, can you actually take the physical education class? Isn't your body a little bit weak?"

"I want to do as much as I can." Sekai's voice was full of determination, "Exercise is most likely not possible, but since I have the chance, I would like to change clothes."

"Got it. Then... Koiwai-san."

"Yes?"

"Can I ask you to help out? With Kanaruzawa that is."

"Yessir... Well then, Kanaruzawa-san, come over here. I'll take you to the changing room."

Yuuki just watched as Sekai chased after the back of the class representative.

(Well, I guess it'll be fine.) Yuuki thought while he made his own

preparations for physical education. (We were able to clear the previous class after all. Putting too much worry into it wouldn't be good for her either.)

Then, just 10 minutes later.

What came flying into Yuuki's ears was a report that Kanaruzawa Sekai had fallen and was carried to the school infirmary.

†

"... Sorry about this, Yuuki." She was lying down on a pipe bed in the school infirmary. Sekai's eyebrows were brought together as she made an apology. "I ended up talking big earlier, but in the end, it became like this. I am quite ashamed."

"Nono, don't worry about it." Rather, Yuuki was the one who wanted to apologize.

It was his own mistake for being unable to judge the limits of the sickly transfer student—was that thinking wrong in any way? After all, he had heard from Kurumi, that Sekai, at the changing room, had fallen by herself without any warning whatsoever. It would have been difficult to foresee in advance.

"It's hard, right?" Yuuki voiced out while scratching his head. "I guess, going to school like this and having a normal school life is a little bit impossible. As expected, bringing you to school wasn't a great idea—"

"That's not true, Yuuki." Sekai shook her head, "I myself should understand what state my body is in. Despite that I had been the one to voice my own selfishness in going to school, and you were only dragged into that."

"No. Even if you say that..."

"Besides, it was really fun, you know?" She spoke out shyly, "Coming to school, taking classes together with everyone. It is quite a fulfilling feeling. All of this, is thanks to you, Yuuki. Because you helped me, I

am able to be here.”

“Is that so. It’s nice of you to say that.”

“There were also a lot of new things I discovered.”

“Discovered?”

“You aren’t very close with the people from your class.”

“...”

“There is only one person that you have conversations with. The rest of your classmates don’t seem to be on great terms with you.”

Sekai made a worried face. Having her worry about him, Yuuki made a bitter smile, before explaining. “Well, how should I say this? A lot of things happened.”

“What do you mean by a lot of things happened?”

“Well, first would be that my family is head of a very large company. Just from this, I end up standing out a lot.”

“What else?”

“I just somehow ended up hitting some people, things like that happened quite a few times.”

“Do you like hitting other people?”

“There’s no way that’s true. Sometimes, things just happen where I’m forced to. And well, because of that, there ended up being misunderstandings.”

“Is it alright for you not to break up those misunderstandings?”

“If you were to ask me that, then yes, I would. However, once I’ve been stuck with a something it’s hard to remove it. My gaze isn’t exactly that nice either.”

“... I see.” Making a sight, Sekai frowned. “The world is quite stubborn. More than I imagined it to be.”

Her face was like that of a child who was seeing the hypocrisy of the world for the first time. Somehow it was weird.

“Well, for me, it doesn’t really matter that much.” Yuuki returned the conversation to its original topic, “What are you going to do now? Are you going to go home for now?”

“... If possible, I would like to be at school for longer.”

“Isn’t it fine if it’s not today? If you plan on going to school properly, then tomorrow, or even the day after you can still going to school.”

“Fumu.” After thinking for a bit, Sekai nodded, “I understand. I’ll listen to you. I’ll quietly go home and rest.”

Just like that. For Kanaruzawa’s second time going to school, she ended up retiring partway through the second period of class.

Yuuki felt that this wasn’t something to think negatively upon. Rather, it could be called a remarkable advancement. Although it took a lot of handholding to get to this point, it was only a matter of time. If she was to return to becoming a shut in, she has already learned the processes behind going to school. Even if she were to not want to come anymore, she has already earned quite a bit.

Of course, just coming to school was no good. To properly take class, to participate in school events, and to collaborate with her classmates. Only then, can Sekai advance further. In the true sense of the word.

(... Am I really in the position to be talking about other people.) Thinking that, Yuuki made a self deprecating laugh. With his own position in the class, how could he be saying all of this. (I also need to change a little bit...)

There was Koiwai Kurumi, and his sister Haruko. Yuuki’s own relationship were already quite lively and fulfilling. However, as the “*master*” he couldn’t show his “*disciple*” such an unsightly appearance.

The next morning.

When they got to school, indoor shoes were gone. [1]

Not Yuuki's, but Kanaruzawa Sekai's shoes.

(Really...?)

He doubted it repeatedly. He didn't just doubt it, but even rubbed his eyes multiple times. However, reality didn't change. It was completely new pair of white indoor shoes, and it had now disappeared without a trace.

(Did someone make a mistake and take it on accident?)

It didn't look like that though. All the spots adjacent to Sekai were all completely empty. If it was just some mistake and some random person was wearing it, then there should be at least another one still left.

(Did Kanaruzawa make a mistake? Maybe she put her shoes in the wrong spot...)

It's hard to think that either. She was currently standing next to Yuuki, staring in the same direction as him, and making a blank expression. Trying to understand the situation, it could be seen that she was completely dumbfounded by the printed words in front of her.

If that's the case, there's only one answer.

Someone took them. Sekai's indoor shoes. Purposefully.

(Why?) Yuuki bit his lips.

There should be no reason that she would have to go through this. She hasn't done anything at all. She came to class for the first time in a long time and had to retire early from class because she was feeling bad. It was just that. There should be no reason for someone to hold a grudge against her.

Despite that, why?

She had just got to the point where she could come to school. If it's like this, maybe she'll return to being—

“Ummm. Kanaruzawa.”

This isn't the time for him to be spacing out. Kanaruzawa was a delicate person. On the long road to the station, she cried. After being, stuffed into the train during rush hour, she cried. She even cried when she took a drink of canned coffee from the convenience store.

He needed to at least follow up at this point. Just by hiding her indoor shoes, even with such a trivial amount of harassment, Sekai was sure to feel bad about it.

“For now, just calm down. Don't worry. It's probably just some mistake.”

“Yuuki.” The troubled Sekai unexpectedly raised her voice.

Although quiet, the voice contained something that seemed to draw people to it. A few of the people around even turned around to look at her. Even Yuuki turned around, his heart rate rising a bit.

This is what he ended up seeing.

Kanaruzawa Sekai, a completely distorted expression, tears pouring from her eyes—

Or not.

“Yuuki.”

She was smiling.

Kanaruzawa Sekai was smiling. It wasn't something that was forced either. More than that, her eyes were sparkling.

“I am currently, very moved.” She said.

Yuuki could only give her a questioning look.

"I am really really moved, Yuuki. My heart has been moved a lot." Sekai repeated the same thing twice. As expected though, Yuuki could only shake his head in wonder. Sekai was like a teacher trying to teach a student who just couldn't grasp the concept, as she waved her hands and body, "Look. My shoes are gone."

"Y-yeah. So it seems."

"Someone hid them without telling me."

"Well. That's possible."

"In other words, this is what is called bullying."

"No, well it isn't completely confirmed just yet. That's why you don't need to feel down just—"

"I'm currently very happy."

... As expected, he couldn't understand at all. It was as if someone had just answered that $1 + 1 = 3$ with a straight face. It was as if she was explaining to someone that the earth revolved around the sun, when they believed that the sun revolving around the earth.

"Ummm, Kanaruzawa." Yuuki asked hesitantly. "If you are actually being bullied, why is it that you're happy? If you're being bullied, it means that you've gained the hatred of some person, you know? And it would be quite a bit of it too. Wouldn't you normally be sad about that?"

"Of course, that's obvious." She made an even weirder expression. Then, Sekai explained it to him. "It somehow feels like I'm actually *living*."

"Haaah."

"I came to school, and there was someone that didn't really like me. As a result of that, my shoes disappeared. The fact that I had interacted with someone, the proof of that is in a tangible form right in front of my eyes. If that isn't something to be happy about, then what is?"

“Hahaa.” It was a curveball thrown from a completely different direction than he expected. For Yuuki, it was just a plain old remark. But seeing Sekai showing that she was truly happy, he could only believe that it was a valid way to think of it. “I see. I guess you were a shut in. In the truest sense of that phrase.”

“Yeah. That’s right.”

“If you think about it from that direction... I guess I could see it.”

“Yeah. That’s the truth of it.”

“But you know?” Yuuki stared straight at her and pointed. “What are you going to do without your shoes for the day. The soles of your feet will get dirty, and it will probably hurt too.”

“If it’s just getting dirty, I don’t mind. And if it’s the pain, then I can bear with it.”

“If you alone are walking barefoot you’ll stand out, you know? It’ll also be found out that you’re being bullied. If it gets found out, you won’t be able to get along with the class, you know?”

“I completely don’t care about that. Being *unable to get along*, is also a form of interaction between people. It’s something to be happy about for a shut in like me.”

Niheheh, deheheh.

Sekai laughed happily. Rather than laughing, it could be said she was grinning.

(She’s completely serious about it. For sure.)

It was quite surprising. That there would be someone who would react to this situation in this way.

“Ummm. Then, what are you going to do?”

“What do you mean?”

“Isn’t it fine to just go home for today? Since something like this

happened, shouldn't you report it to teacher? It would be a good idea to do various things."

"There's no need for that." Sekai shook her head strongly. "I don't wish for something like that. I'm fine with it the way it is now."

"No, but still—"

"Come on, let's go, Yuuki. If you keep dragging on, we'll be late." Saying that, she proceeded down the hall without her shoes. Energetically.

In the end, Sekai left partway through the third class period.

The reason being that her condition worsened. It didn't have any relation with her shoes being gone. Laying in a bed in the infirmary while hearing the sound of the referee, she made a dissatisfied expression. It didn't seem like she was going to try and tough it out or needlessly push herself though.

(Such a weird person.) Yuuki once again thought that.

Involving himself with Sekai, it seemed like he would be able to see a lot of things in a new light. Once again, her charm was showing through, even in a way like this.

TL Note:

1. In Japanese schools, cleanliness is a huge part of the school culture. Schools organize and have students clean up after school, while also making sure that students do not go into school buildings while wearing their normal shoes. They have indoor shoes that they switch into at the entrance of the building.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai

Rabukome – Volume 2:

Chapter 6

第六章



After that, the bullying that was directed towards Kanaruzawa Sekai was held off for a bit. It wasn't that the problem was solved. But rather, because she couldn't keep up the pace she was moving at. Her health had suddenly collapsed, and she was now in a state where she could not come to school. Bullying could not be directed towards a person that was not there.

Throughout the end of May and through the start of June, time passed on without anything noteworthy. Sometimes, he would visit Kanaruzawa's place and Sekai would feel happy about it. However, he could never stay for long as her condition wasn't great. Regarding the person responsible for hiding her shoes, there was neither any clue or evidence as to who it was. Having fun with Haruko, spending time after school with Kurumi, these days went by where even rain couldn't stop—until finally, there came a day where the sun peeked through again.

To the Yuuki, that hadn't visited the Kanaruzawa mansion for a couple of days, the maid, Chiyo-san, said this.

†

“Is it possible for you to go on a date with my mistress?”

Currently present in the room was Sekai, Yuuki, and Chiyo-san.

“Yeah. Understood.” Yuuki immediately nodded, “When would be good?”

“Recently, my mistress's condition has gotten a bit better. If that's the case, how about you go today, right now.”

“That's quite sudden. But, it's okay, that's fine with me.”

“How would you like the date to go? If you aren't prepared, I can prepare something on my end. Like a reservation at some restaurant.”

“No, it's okay. I'll think of something. Together with Kanaruzawa.”

“Understood... Then, Mistress.” She turned her smile to face Sekai, “Everything has been set up. Please go on ahead.”

“...”

Sekai stared blankly. She was in her pajamas, sitting upright on the bed with the book that she was reading open in front of her. Her expression seemed to say that she didn't understand anything of what just happened.

“... No, wait. Hmm? Eh?” Rubbing between her eyebrows with her fingers, she spoke, “Chiyo?”

“What is it?”

“It might just be me misunderstanding something, but without any of my own will included, an important part of my future was just chosen. Is that just my imagination?”

“Yes. That is just your imagination.” Chiyo-san smiled.

“Fumu fumu. I see, I see.” Sekai once again replied with a smile. “Let me confirm the situation. Without me being involved whatsoever, you and Yuuki exchanged a conversation in which you decided that Yuuki and I would now be going on a date—am I wrong?”

“Yes. That is correct.”

“It might just be me misunderstanding something, but without any of my own will included, an important part of my future was just chosen. Is that just my imagination?”

“Yes. That's just your imagination.”

“Fumu fumu. I see, I see. Just my imagination.” She nodded multiple times, and as she was about to return to reading her book, “—Like I can believe that!”

She threw off both the blanket and the book.

“This is definitely weird! It's not just my imagination! I've been tricked!”

“Please calm down, Mistress.”

“How could I calm down in a situation like this!” Sekai protested, her face red as she waved both of her arms around.

On the other hand, Chiyo-san was perfectly calm. “I fear this means that my mistress does not want this to happen. That is, going on a date with Yuuki-sama, who had found free time to see how you were doing.”

“T-that’s not true!”

“My lonely mistress believes that Yuuki, who it can be said that she is in a close relationship with, is an unworthy person for her to go on a date with. That’s what you are trying to say.”

“I’m trying to tell you that that isn’t true...”

“I am truly very sorry, Yuuki-sama.” Returning to face Yuuki, Chiyo-san bowed deeply with her head.

“No, I see. It can’t be helped then.”

“I was the one that had first spoken to you about this, I am very sorry about this. How can I repay you for this blunder?”

“No no. I am the one at fault for being rejected. My gaze is quite scary, and I’m quick to get into fights. I’m really just a terrible man.”

“If you are fine with that, but how about I find a suitable girl for you, and introduce you to her. Would that be fine as a symbol of apology?”

“Eh. Is that really okay?”

“Of course. I can introduce ten, no, even a hundred people for you. It can be in the form of a mixer, or even a one on one meeting. If you wish, we can even begin right now. No need—”

“I—Was—Trying—To—Speak!” Sekai raised her voice. She was already half crying. “Listen to me when I speak! I didn’t say I didn’t want to! I’ll do it! I’ll go on the date!”

“No no, Mistress. You don’t need to force yourself.”

“I’m not forcing myself at all! I’ll happily do it! Let me prepare, so give me a little bit of time!”

†

“... Still, Chiyo-san.” Leaving Sekai’s room, they were now relaxing in the reception room of the mansion. To the maid that was serving tea with a composed expression, Yuuki made a cynical remark. “You really hit me with a fast ball there.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Of course, it’s not like I don’t understand. She’s very cute. Kanaruzawa Sekai is by all means, cute. Cute without any bad points.”

“Yes. That’s exactly right.”

“She’s cute in appearance, her mannerisms are cute as well. No matter how you think of it, she’s cute. Something composed of only cute things, a cute monster. It’s to the point that I would want to marry her.”

“Yuuki-sama, you really do understand it very well.”

“But you know?” Yuuki furrowed his eyebrows. “You telling me so suddenly to go on a date with her, it really almost made my heart stop right there.”

“Despite that,” Setting down the teacup on the table, she gave a smile, “Yuuki-sama ended up immediately giving an okay.”

“Well, I mean. I can’t afford to hesitate in saying something there, as a man that is.”

“That’s a good thing to have.”

“But you know, in reality, my mind was completely blank. Next time you throw a surprise like that, do you mind telling me in advance. Really.”

“I am really sorry.” She tilted her head slightly and put her index

finger to her cheek, "I cannot fulfill your request. Since I have quite the twisted character, I plan to spring surprises like this one on you even in the future. That way, I may continue to enjoy the cuteness of my mistress to the fullest."

"Hahaa. I see."

"Rather I will inhale it all. Into the deepest part of my bones."

"Hahaa."

Yuuki could only laugh. Everything that has been said until now, has given this feeling.

"Please ignore the possible negatives that may come." Chiyo-san refilled the tea. "Do not worry about how the date is going. Do not hesitate and just have fun. Do your best to entertain my mistress. And if you have any troubles, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be able to immediately arrive on the scene."

"That is more than enough, thank you." Yuuki deeply lowered his head. Of course, meaning it in a sarcastic way.

"Then?" Yuuki asked, "What is that you are trying to do?"

"What do you mean by that?"

"Putting me and Kanaruzawa on a date like that, what do you hope to get out of it? What result would satisfy you, Chiyo-san?"

"It seems you are slightly misunderstanding me." She spoke while enjoying the fragrance of the tea, "I don't really have anything planned from this. What I want is very simple. It is something that is permanent and immutable. Now, and even in the past, I have been continuing to seek only one thing."

"What is that, exactly?"

"My mistress's happiness."

It was a calm sunny day, during the rainy season. The trees in the garden were vividly green from soaking up all the rain water.

Receiving sunlight from between the gaps in the clouds, the purple of the hydrangeas were bright to the eyes.

“As you know, my mistress is a very charming person. Honest, pure-hearted, and more than anything, beautiful. For a person like that, I would only wish the best for them.”

She dropped her line of sight to the golden red liquid,

“That is my only wish. Anything else, I have no need for.”

†

Sekai appeared, wearing her school uniform.

It couldn't be said that it was unexpected. Yuuki could picture it, Sekai thinking over it multiple times, before finally arriving at the decision to walk out in this sort of fashion.

“W-what do you think...?” With an uneasy expression, she asked.

To be honest, there was nothing much to say about it, but Yuuki was still a man. He laughed and properly gave his reply.

“Yeah. It looks good on you.”

“I-is that so? Yeah. Then it's fine. Yeah.”

“How are you feeling?”

“Not bad. Rather, I am feeling great at this current moment.”

“If you start feeling bad again, make sure you tell me, okay? Don't push yourself.”

“Yeah. I won't push myself.”

“Really, don't force it. Promise me?”

“No need for you to worry. I'm not exactly proud of it, but if I go to school, I will definitely without a doubt, leave before noon.”

That's exactly right.

Yuuki laughed, “Well then, let’s go.”

“Yeah. Let’s go.”

“While we walk, let’s think about where we want to go, and what we want to do.”

“Yeah. Let’s do that.”

Kanaruzawa’s residence lay on the Soubu Line, located within a quiet residential area within the city. Around it, was a high-class residential living area filled with convoluted roads and many slopes. For Sekai, it should have been a painful path to walk, however, she ended up walking to the station steadily, without any complaints.

Rather, she looked like she was having a lot of while walking. When she was met with either stairs or a slope, her breathing would immediately become strained. Despite that, her expression was still bright.

“Then?” Yuuki asked. “Where do you want to go?”

“Anywhere is fine.” She answered immediately.

Anywhere is fine. In some ways, it was an even more troublesome answer than a specific place.

What should we do, Yuuki thought, “Well then... how about going to the park? For now that is. It’s close after all.”

“Yeah. No problem.” Sekai nodded while smiling.

Depending on the person, it was a plan where it would be appropriate for someone to just get mad and leave, but it seems that for her, it was completely fine.

“We can come up with an even more luxurious plan, you know? For instance, going out to some expensive restaurant.”

“If you end up spending money, it isn’t exactly something that is luxurious.”

“I guess so...”

“Rather, there’s something that I would like to ask you.” Sekai didn’t hold her words back, as she walked a little bit behind Yuuki, “I’m grateful for you going on a date with me, but... is it really alright?”

“Is it really alright... for what?”

“For instance, wouldn’t your little sister’s mood worsen because of this?”

“Haruko? I’m sure she’ll be bending over with rage. But that’s just the usual thing.”

“My condition might worsen in the middle of this, and it might cause you trouble.”

“I would never be bothered by something like that at this late point in time.”

“I might even end up using up a lot of your money.”

“If it’s money, use it however much you want or like. Chiyo-san had provided me with some. But you know, even I have at least some money to use. Enough to use it on a date like this.”

“Moreover, Yuuki.” Her voice was quiet. Quiet enough that it seemed that even the wind might blow it away. “Are you fine with me? Would you be happy going on a date with me? I mean, isn’t a date something that you would be going on when the other person is someone that you’re really close to and in love with.”

Kirishima Yuuki was a man. As such, at a time like this, he could answer properly.

“I am having fun.” Yeah, he strongly nodded up and down. “Coming with you on a date is fun.”

“...”

It was a simple answer. Rather, it was too simple, to the point of being bewildering. Sekai had an expression that showed that she was

completely caught off guard,

“I see. Fumu. I see.” She said.

And after that, her face suddenly turned red. Yuuki pretended he didn’t notice that. This was something that would also be part of manners as a man.

Since they were in such a nice neighborhood, the park also had a nice feel to it. The swings, and all the other parts of the playground were all kept in good condition and were completely clean. Without any worry in the world, the children were all playing on them while they seemed to shine vibrantly with life.

The two of them sat down on a bench.

“Fuu.” Sekai made a relieved sigh. Even if it was a short walk, to her, it was a little bit of an adventure.

“... But you know,” Yuuki looked up towards the partly cloudy sky as he spoke, “Going on a date at the neighborhood park. It’s a little bit pitiful, is it not?”

“Why is that? It’s not pitiful at all.” Sekai made a confused look. “Even if where we’re going for our date is the park, whether a date goes well or badly doesn’t depend on that, right? I am enjoying myself, other than that, what else is there that could be used to measure the value of a date?”

“Well, that’s true I guess. It makes sense logically.”

“Earlier you even said, money is not part of the problem, did you not?”

“Yeah. It’s just as you say.”

“Rather, what is pitiful is me.” She hung her head, “Due to the weakness of my body, where we could go on a date was limited to places like this. If my body were just a bit healthier, then you wouldn’t have needed to take extra care for something trivial like this.”

“No no. It’s not your fault.”

“Fumu. If that’s true then it’s fine.”

“I mean, I’m the same as well. Suddenly asked to go on a date, and then giving my okay. I really didn’t think about it enough.”

“Then, it’s the same for the both of us!” Sekai spilled out into laughter. “You and me, we’re both causing various amount of trouble. If that’s the case, then we’re even, right? There’s nothing to worry about.”

“I see. Well, I guess it’s fine like that if you truly think that.”

“There really is no problem, Yuuki. I am truly enjoying this. It’s even a very refreshing feeling for me. Allowing me to feel like this, instead of feeling bad, you should be proudly holding out your chest, Yuuki.”

“... I see. I guess that’s true. If I look down the whole time, then our date would be completely ruined.”

“That’s how it is.” Saying that, Sekai showed her white teeth. Then she said this, “This is my first time coming to the park, so I really am enjoying it. I’ll keep reminding you of that point.”

“...”

Yuuki scratched his cheek. It wasn’t that he was embarrassed. He was going to try asking her something that he never had the chance to ask her before.

“Kanaruzawa.”

“Yes?”

“This being the first time coming to the park, how exactly have you lived until now?”

“I was just a shut in.” Sekai answered embarrassingly, “As you very well know, my body is weak. I stayed in bed, slept, and passed my life like that. That’s why I’ve never been to the park.”

“But still. You didn’t become a shut in because you hated to involve yourself with the outside world, right? You want to go to school after all.”

“That is true...”

“Then that means you should’ve at least been able to go to the park. If it’s just the neighborhood park, you can get here instantly if you just use a car. You even have the strength to at least make it to school by walking.”

“Well, Yuuki, that’s because,” She smiled as she spoke, “You changed me. After meeting you, I ended up wanting to see the outside world even more. That’s why I’m grateful to you. I am here right now, the way I am right now, because of you.”

“You’re welcome, I guess. That makes me pretty happy.” It came from the bottom of her heart. However, towards Sekai’s straightforward praise, Yuuki did not blush at all. He continued to pursue and question further. “Where did you go to elementary school?”

“Why do you ask that?”

“Well, I’m curious. Maybe my friends might know someone that knows you as well, you see.”

“Fumu, I see. I went to an elementary school that is very very far away from here. I also forgot the name of it. I basically didn’t go to school after all.”

“Then what about middle school?”

“That’s also the same. It’s a middle school far away from here that I had already forgotten the name of. If you want, you can try asking Chiyo-san to see if she knows.”

“No. It’s fine if I don’t ask.” Yuuki shook his head. He didn’t think that maid would ever give him a serious answer. “Then how about you tell me stories about your past?”

“That’s a tough question. I didn’t have someone like you after all, I

didn't have any close relationships with people, and so stories and memories are hard to talk about."

"But still, you have to at least have some. At least a little."

"Hmmm... Even if you say that..."

"Even if you didn't go to school, don't you have some memories related to school? Anything is fine. For instance, the scenery that you might have seen on the way to school. If you only went to school every once in a while, then you should at least have some impression of it, right?"

"Ah, I see. Even something like that is okay." Understanding what he meant, she made a relieved expression, "When I did happen to go to school, I went in a car. My body was weak after all. As such, the scenery that I remember is just from what passes by the car—yeah, not a huge impression of it is left as expected. I'll say this again, but I didn't go to school very much."

"Then, I'll stop asking about school. Let me, ask you about other things. For example—"

"Wait, Yuuki, wait." Sekai seemed to be taken aback, "If you ask so much in one go, then my head will end up being confused. You really are such a stingy man."

"Really? I didn't have that intention though."

"Also, such questions are quite tactless. Is that how a date is supposed to go? It seems to be different from what I imagined."

"Well... that's true. You're right."

"Moreover, you've been one-sidedly asking me questions for a while. I also want to hear stuff about you too, you know?" Sekai pursed her lips.

Hearing all of this, Yuuki raised the white flag. "I got it, I got it. Then, next is your turn. Ask me anything you would like."

"Yeah, that's how it should be. The first thing that I would like to ask,

is about the relationship between you and your sister...”

From there, the questions started coming. Sekai’s curiosity exploded, as she asked about more and more things. Yuuki’s view on life, friends, interests, preferences in girls, even down to their three sizes. From different angles, and different intensities.

(Well, it does make me happy.)

The fact that Kanaruzawa Sekai held interest in him. He was truly pleased. It put a nice spring into Yuuki’s heart. But at the same time, he confirmed it. When he is interacting with her, the feeling that he thought was unease, was actually not what he thought it was. Rather, it was worry.

“Kanaruzawa.” Holding back the rain of questions, Yuuki spoke. “If something happens, tell me. Properly.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Anything is fine. Anyways, if anything happens, tell me. I’ll do anything that I can do. No, really.”

“Fumu. You are a man that says some weird things.” Sekai tilted her head, then nodded, “But, I understand. I’ll remember your advice.”

She then said this, “And I also understand one other thing. You are a really kind person. A kind and large person. Just like your name.” [1]

“... Ummm.”

“What’s wrong, Yuuki? You’re making a weird face.”

“If you say something like that with such a serious face, it’s impossible not to get embarrassed.”

“What are you getting embarrassed about? I’m only saying the truth.” Sekai pouted a little. Due to her lack of common sense, she sometimes showed this part of her.

“Now then,” To hide his embarrassment, he changed the subject.

“Well, why don’t we do something that is more date like?”

“Mumu?” Sekai instantly drew in. “Something date like, what do you mean by that? Is there something even more date like than this? I thought this was already pretty date like as it was.”

“Well, just watch.” While putting on airs, Yuuki rose from his seat.

At this time of year, the blues and reds of hydrangeas were quite vibrant. Between the underbrush, the white flowers of white clovers were blooming. After gathering a few of those flowers, Yuuki started his work.

“Mumumu?”

Sekai looked into the palms of his hand. Her face was full of curiosity, as if she was a kid. And when he thought that, the other kids around also came. The kids who were playing around gathered while yelling, “*What is it? What is it?*”, as they paid close attention to Yuuki’s work.

“What what?”

“What are you doing?”

“What are you doing with those flowers, Onii-chan?”

“Yuuki. Without putting on airs, please tell me. What are you making?”

“Fufufu.”

Yuuki continued to work while putting on airs. A bit of time passed after that. And the product was complete.

“*Ooooh!*”, voices came out.

What Yuuki made was a garland. With the white and green of the white clovers as a base, he sprinkled in the blue and red of hydrangeas. It was quite a nice piece of work.

“... It’s great!” Sekai praised him with shining eyes. “This is great, Yuuki! It’s really really nice!”

“Right? I’m also satisfied with my workmanship.”

“The blue and red of the hydrangeas, are almost like sapphires and rubies. Your hands are quite dexterous.”

“It comes from my little sister. She used to have me make a lot of these.”

He didn’t think that that experience would live on in this manner. With how many times his sister has helped him, he was really thinking that he would have to repay her somehow in the near future.

“Uwah. Uwah. It’s amazing. Uwah.” Sekai was completely caught by the garland. She looked like a boy staring at a trumpet on display through a window.

“Do you like it?”

“Yeah! I like it! You really showed me something amazing!”

“Then, I’ll give it to you.” Saying that, Yuuki put the garland on Sekai’s head.

“...?”

Sekai completely blanked out. From the children, voices of jealousy came out.

“Yuuki?”

“I said that I’m giving it to you. Rather, it was already yours in the first place.”

“???”

“I made that for you. I intended on giving that you in the first place. However, I didn’t know if you would take a liking to it and accept it, but I thought you might like it. That’s why, I’ll give it to you.”

“...”

“It’s a present. Isn’t this a little bit date like?”

“...” It seems like she still didn’t comprehend the situation. She touched the garland that was on top of her head multiple times, the children voiced their jealousy as they grabbed onto the edges of her clothes, and finally, her face turned red, “T-t-t-t-t-tha-thank y—”

“Me too!” Interrupting Sekai’s quiet voice, one of the kids shouted.

“Make one for me too!”

“Me too!”

“Then, me as well!”

“If I make that many, all the flowers will be gone.”

Being pressured by so many children, Yuuki made a troubled expression. Large ones probably wouldn’t work, but if it was small, then it might. After making that proposal, the children raised their hands in excitement.

“Then, that’s how it’ll be.” To the princess that was still blanking out, he spoke, “Would you mind helping me, Kanaruzawa? This number would be kind of hard with just myself.”

Just like that.

Sekai gathered the flowers for the garlands, while Yuuki made short work of them. The children surrounded the two of them, waited in apprehension.

Eventually, the parents of the children gathered as well, and it ended up becoming even nosier. It wasn’t just the children, even the parents were saying stuff like “*Will you please teach me the way to make it?*”, and so it ended up being a bit of an arts and craft class. Yuuki was overwhelmed, and Sekai’s eyes were spinning. It became really busy, and there was no time to rest. However, Yuuki didn’t feel uncomfortable. Since, Sekai also did not have an uncomfortable expression. After a while, someone had spoke out saying this, “*Somehow, it seems like the two of you are a couple with a lot of*

children.” To that, Yuuki replied calmly with, *“Do the two of us look good together?”* Sekai, on the other hand had a little bit of a panic. As a whole, it could be said that the date was a huge success.

“Well done, Yuuki-sama.” Chiyo-san praised him afterwards.

After returning to the mansion, Sekai’s condition had worsened and she had gone to sleep. That was the only mistake. Thinking back to the how she was communicating with all those lively children, it would be fine for him to hold out his chest with pride.

And then Yuuki thought.

Thinking back on it, that time that he had spent together with her was probably his happiest moment.

TL Note:

1. I think I mentioned this once before, but just in case. His name written in kanji is 優樹. The first word means kind, while the second one means tree. So, she’s saying like his name because he’s kind, like the first character. And large like a tree, for the second character.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai Rabukome – Volume 2: Chapter 7

第七章



It wasn't until July that Kanaruzawa Sekai was once again able to go to school.

Originally, that would be good news.

Why? Because he would be able make preparations in the meantime.

†

"Didn't Kanaruzawa say that she didn't mind?"

Yuuki had confided Koiwai Kurumi.

"It is a fact that having her shoes hidden like this is a form of bullying. I can't just leave it alone and do nothing."

"Mmm... I guess so..."

Kurumi put a finger on her chin, "Since I'm also a class representative, I guess I can't just overlook it. After hearing something like that, that is."

"Will you help?"

"In finding the culprit?"

"Well, of course it would come to that. I don't really want to think about it like that though."

"Very well, I'll help you. However, don't expect too much, okay? I'm in bit of a difficult position, after all."

"A difficult position?"

"You'll find out soon enough."

†

Kurumi's prediction was correct.

It came in the form of being called out. He was called to the counseling room.

“There’s word saying that you and Kanaruzawa were at the park, unnecessarily damaging and scattering the flowers.”

Yuuki, surprised by the teacher’s statement, argued back.

It’s true that we did end up ruining a few flowers. However, most of what was used was mostly weeds consisting of white clovers. For the hydrangeas, only those that were withering a bit were chosen to be used. I wouldn’t dare call it vandalizing or damaging the flowers. We even properly cleaned up afterwards. The children and wives from around the neighborhood were also happ—

“The truth is, there were complaints.”

The counselor, despite facing up against Yuuki’s confrontational attitude, spoke out resolutely.

“I don’t care whether or not you truly vandalized the park, but you’ve also been suspended from school for violence right? No matter how you put it, the impression that you’ve given other people is bad. You should be more careful with how you act.”

“...”

“This time, it’ll end with a severe warning. From now on, be careful.

†

... Because that happened, things became a little difficult.

Adding onto that, Sekai was only bullied for that one time. There was no proof, and since she hadn’t come to school again, there was not another repeat. Without being able to prove it, none of the teachers would make a move.

(Truthfully, it wasn’t that important. Searching for the culprit, that is.)

Moreover, Kanaruzawa Sekai was someone who was happy for having her shoes hidden. Whether the bullying was to continue or not, there wouldn’t be much of an affect on her life.

(Still, she might get dragged into something bigger. If something could be done, then I have to do it.)

With that said, it was still a difficult problem. Putting in the effort, he spoke to his classmates, looked for any clues there might be, and tried following through with Sekai's situation. However, all he got was fear, and disgust, responses that weren't any good. Rather, in doing that, Yuuki had ended up putting everyone else weirdly on guard.

(I was someone that was hated this much...)

As expected, it was a little bit depressing. What's impossible was impossible. If he were to push things even further, it'll probably end up being even more troublesome of a situation.

"Sorry. It's hard." Kurumi apologized while putting both her hands together. "I also tried various things. Following up with the problem, searching for the culprit. I tried a bit of everything. But, it seems to be impossible."

"Seems to be impossible?"

"Ummmm..." After chewing on her words for a bit, "Yuuki-kun, you don't have any friends, right?"

"It's just as you say."

"You almost don't interact with any other people from the class, right?"

"That's true."

"That's why, you might not know, but Yuuki-kun, you stick out quite a lot. At this school."

"No. I mean, I do understand that."

"No, I really don't think you truly understand." She spoke in a way that made it seem hard, "I'm going to be your ally, and I would do everything I can to help you. That's definitely true. But beyond that.... Yeah, I won't be able to guarantee anything. Do you get it?"

"I understand that it is something that's really hard for you to talk about."

"For now, I'll just be watching to see how things go. I'll leave the rest alone, something like that. I'm in a bit of a bind if you know what I mean."

... Yuuki was not stupid. Despite how roundabout Kurumi was being, he believed that he understood what she was trying to get across. Still, he knew that there was no other choice for but to push forward. If nothing else, Kanaruzawa Sekai, herself, would need that the most.

†

One day in July. Kanaruzawa Sekai came to school for the first time in a while.

"Yuuki. Will there be that again today?"

"What do you mean by that?"

"My shoes. Will they be taken by someone again?"

It was a sunny day before the approaching rainy season. Below the blue sky, blending in with the students going to school, Sekai's voice was excited.

"I don't think it was taken." Yuuki replied indifferently, "I made moves, in order to make sure that the same thing won't happen."

"Fumu, I see. I feel a little bit sad about that, but... if that's the case then it's fine."

Sekai was in a good mood Fuun fuun fuun, she was lightly humming, and even skipping energetically while moving. If you keep doing that, your condition will end up worsening again, was something Yuuki was not going to say.

In return, he said something else.

"Sekai."

"Yes?"

“I am your ally, okay?”

“I am also your ally.” Sekai immediately responded. “No matter what happens, I will always be your ally. Of course, I would probably just end up being taken care of by you, and won’t really be much help at all.”

It was a smile without any evil intent. Like a brand-new, clean white sheet. Yuuki was aware that it might seem like a depressing way to think. But he wanted to protect this smile. To ensure that it does not wither, no matter what happens.

†

When they entered the classroom, the mood instantly became stagnant. Their classmates who were originally boiling over with the morning commotion, quickly died down and stopped their conversations. Taking glances at the two newcomers, they would immediately divert their gazes. Tch, there was even the sound of someone clicking their tongue. The commotion soon returned.

Yuuki, who was standing still, began walking again, with Sekai following behind him. The two of them arrived at their own seats. Sekai made a relieved sigh, as if she had just finished a long journey.

While thinking that appearance was quite charming, Yuuki confirmed their surroundings and realized that Kurumi was not in the classroom. It was unusual but not something that never happens. She’s the class representative and has a lot of friends and would probably be busy with something.

There wasn’t going to be a morning greeting today—

“Why did she come?”

A voice came out from somewhere.

“Is there any meaning in coming? She’ll probably just end up in the infirmary again.”

“She doesn’t even take classes properly.”

“She probably doesn’t even have enough credits. It’s impossible for her to graduate.”

It wasn’t just one voice.

It wasn’t just one, and neither did it come from one direction. From all around the classroom, regardless of gender, regardless of group, everyone was whispering.

“Also, did you hear? About that?”

“About the park and the flowers?”

“I heard about that. No way.”

“No, not at all. Rather, that seems creepy.”

“It really makes you think, what is it that she’s thinking about?”

“Doesn’t even come to school. No, it would be great if she didn’t come to school.”

... He thought he was prepared for it.

Even with all of Yuuki’s power, he couldn’t be the one that leads the way. He couldn’t take away the negative image that people had of the transfer student. Because of that, he was prepared that there would be this sort of backlash.

However, he never thought that it would come with this much at once.

(Sekai is...)

He looked towards the other person, who was fully receiving all the negative emotions. Shown on her face was an expression of laughter, trouble, and awkwardness. As if she didn’t exactly know how to measure the situation. As expected, even Kanaruzawa Sekai couldn’t be happy in this situation where she was subject to so much negative intent.

(What should I do?)

It would be easy to stop it

It's fine to glare at everyone. It would also be fine to forcefully leave. It's even fine to ask for outside help. But is that really the right thing to do? That wasn't really a simple solution, right? Rather, what would be a simple solution in the first place?

"Moreover, the hat and the wig. What's with that?"

"Is she trying to be fashionable? There's no way."

"It's so desperate that it's funny. Does she really want to come to school that much? Isn't there no meaning to that?"

"Isn't she connected with the board, right?"

"Then it would be easy for her to graduate. It'd be so easy."

"Getting a recommendation to college would also be easy."

"Uwah, that's amazing but it definitely seems possible."

... A simple solution? Something like that doesn't matter at all—Yuuki thought.

He wasn't the type to have a short temper. Even the last time when he had resorted to violence, he only did it because he had to. He wasn't one that liked hit and run tactics, and besides, he felt that he shouldn't take a fight without making any preparations first.

(Are you an idiot? It became like this because you say stuff like that.)

He bit his lip. The best method. The best resolution. Because he had aimed for that, the current situation became like this. In reality, it was more than enough just to act—people who were important to Yuuki were being subject to unjust actions, that should already be enough.

"More importantly, about Kirishima. Isn't he also bad?"

"Ah... that might be true..."

“Since she’s with Kirishima, then she’s also been pulled over to that side?”

“He seems kinda scary too.”

“He’s been suspended before too, right? For a fight or something.”

“Then, it can’t be helped. Birds of a feather flock together.”

He was already seething with anger. Ever since her shoes were hidden. He was livid to the point of no return.

“Do you think they’re dating? The two of them?”

“Then, do you think they’ve done it?”

“They probably already did it. They seem pretty loose after all. Have no idea what they’re thinking either.”

“Skipping school to go to a love hotel? Seems pretty possible.”

If he didn’t snap now, then when was he going to? An eye for an eye. A cheap fight for the terrible humiliation. Isn’t that just the perfect combination?

He took a quiet deep breath.

The switch inside him was flipped, and just as he was about to stand up and kick his chair back,
Guashan!

A rattling sound rang out within the classroom.

It wasn’t the sound of Yuuki standing up.

The line of sight of everyone one in the classroom was gathered at one point. They were all focused on the sight of Kanaruzawa Sekai, having kicked down her desk in a impactful way.

(... Eh?)

Yuuki was taken aback.

It wasn't just him. Everyone that was there, had their mouths open in surprise, as if they had seen a lightning strike on a perfectly clear day.

"Listen, everyone." Sekai slowly put her feet together as she commanded them. Her expression was calm and cold. Like a ruler overlooking their—no. Rather, it was like a god looking down from the heavens above. "It's fine if you speak ill of me. I don't even care if you hid my shoes. Those actions are all quite cute to be honest. I welcome it, so do it as much as you want. However—"

From her pocket she took out a cigar. No one said anything as she lit the tobacco with fire, they all just watched. No, their mouths wouldn't open.

"I won't forgive you for insulting my friends. Never."

The tone of her voice was calm. At the same time, the tone was commanding. It was simple, with no room for misinterpretation. There was nothing anyone could do but listen. There was something within it that seemed to say that you couldn't ignore it.

(... Really.)

Gokkuri, Yuuki made a sound as he swallowed his saliva.

Everyone was overwhelmed. By the majesty of it all. Completely and thoroughly overwhelmed. It was of different dimensions. The difference between a child and an adult, was way too small to compare. The difference between a human and a bug, would be more comparable. Forcing you to prostrate yourself before her. That was how Kanaruzawa Sekai currently seemed.

"Yuuki."

The whole area had become quiet—understanding what has been said, they were all forced to swallow their own words.

"Can I ask something of you?"

"Y-yeah?" Liberated from the spell, Yuuki spoke out. "Of course. Say anything you want."

“Thank you. Then, if you would please—” Saying that, Sekai grimaced and smiled.

There, Yuuki finally knew. The girl that he knew very well, had finally returned just then.

“Can you take me to the infirmary? I spoke too much and I’m not feeling too good now.”

†

There was no one else in the infirmary. The nurse was either out on break, or she had not come into work yet. Only the floating specks of dust and the morning sunlight greeted Yuuki and Sekai from within the room.

“Sorry, Yuuki.” Lying down on the bed, those were the first words that came out of her mouth. Diverting her gaze, Sekai apologized. “With this, your position in class probably got even worth. I have no excuses.”

“What...” Yuuki was amazed. He never expected their conversation to start off with that line. “What are you saying? My position didn’t get any worse. Rather, I don’t even care about that type of thing.”

He scratched his head.

She had lowered her head as if she was apologizing to someone she had hit with her car. That’s what it felt like.

“I should be the one thanking you instead. Or else, I really wouldn’t have any standing at all. You put your body at risk for my sake after all.”

“I just happened to get frustrated. And without any thought, I ended up saying whatever was on my mind. Probably, no one in the class holds any good thoughts about us.”

“There’s no way that’s the case. Rather, that’s not even important.” He shook his head, “By now it’s like, who cares about anyone in the class at this point. Really. It was surprising, or rather, I ended up seeing something great.”

“It was quite embarrassing. I have no absolutely no control over my emotions.”

“No no, I was saying—”

He stopped speaking for a moment. If this continued, the pointless argument wouldn't end. He didn't want to have a conversation like that.

“I” He waited for a bit, “I somehow ended up seeing ... your spirit? Or something like that, I ended up seeing it I think. It was mesmerizing. Rather, it was touching. You're the type that can do stuff when things need to be done.”

“Please stop it with that method of complementing. I did nothing to be complimented for.”

“I was happy. About the things that you said for my sake. It should be the opposite. I should be the one to be saying that kind of stuff for your sake. It makes me seem somewhat pitiful to the point of crying.”

“That's not true. You have already done a lot of things for my sake. I was helped by you a lot.”

“Really? If that's the case, then it's fine I guess.”

“I guarantee it. You might be easily misunderstood, but you're a good man. That's why, when I heard other people badmouthing you I couldn't stand it.”

“I see. Yeah.” While nodding, he suddenly became embarrassed.

“More importantly, what's with this situation? The two of us praising each other. Doesn't this feel a little weird?”

“It doesn't feel bad at all. Things that should be praised being praised, that's not a weird thing at all.” Sekai spoke out stubbornly.

Yuuki accepted her assertion that she seemed so sure of. The two of them were already had that sort of relationship. “That's true. The two of us have already gotten this close to each other. Since we've met, only a few months have passed. Isn't that weird?”

“Yuuki, it’s thanks to you. Because you have cared for me, the me right now currently exists. Even though accompanying me is probably quite the troublesome task.”

“Well, yeah. If you ask whether or not it’s troublesome, then it is.”

“Of course, it is... Gusu.”

“Don’t cry... In relation to that troublesome nature though, I would like to ask you for one thing.”

“Something you would like to ask of me?”

“Yeah. We get along quite well with each other after all, listening to at least one of my requests should be fine.”

“There’s no need to formally request it of me.” Sekai made an exaggerated nod. From the bed, she looked at Yuuki with serious eyes, “Say anything you want. I’ve been in your care a lot after all. Listening to one of your requests should be a given.”

“Oooh. That’s quite generous of you.”

“Rather, I’ve been waiting for you to say this for a while now. You do a lot of things for me, but you never ask for anything in return. It’s to the point where I get a little worried about it.”

“No but, my request is a little unreasonable, and maybe even reckless? To be honest, I don’t even think I have the confidence to say it.”

“There’s no problem. If it is for you, I will do my utmost to fulfill it. Whether it’s money, or women, I’ll prepare anything. Even if it’s a couple countries here and there, it’s most likely alright.”

“That’s a huge scale!?”

“That’s why, you should just say it. Don’t hold back.”

“I see. Then, I’ll take you up on the offer.” Yuuki smiled.

Then, he said this.

“Kanaruzawa Sekai-san. Please marry me.”

“...”

Time stopped.

At the end of the rainy season. The start of summer.

The proposal that came out of his mouth so easily, stayed and reverberated within the hot and humid infirmary.

“Y—”

Only the sound of chirping birds, and the voices coming from physical education class filled up the silence, during which, Sekai had a dazed expression on her face.

“Yes. I’ll be in your care.”

“Oooh.” Yuuki was a little bit surprised. “I never thought that I would instantly get an okay. That’s pretty amazing.”

“...” Sekai was silent.

Yuuki tilted his head in confusion.

“No. Eh. Yeah?” Sekai also tilted her head,

“Yuuki. What did I say just now?”

“Yes, I’ll be in your care. That’s what you said.”

“Fumu, I see.” She was still trying to comprehend everything. Half dazed, she looked up at the ceiling, then diverted her gaze out the window, before finally looking at Yuuki again, “By the way, Yuuki.”

“What?”

“What did you say earlier? What did you ask of me?”

“Kanaruzawa Sekai-san, please marry me. That’s what I said.”

“It’s fine if this is just my misunderstanding, but...”

“Yes?”

“What you said, was essentially, a proposal?”

“Yeah. That’s correct.”

“...”

She once again became silent. She stared off with blurred eyes that seemed to be half asleep. She then turned red. It started from her cheeks, then spread to her ears.

“...No. No. Nonono. Wait. Wait a minute, Yuuki...”

“Ah. As expected, it’s a no?”

“No, that’s not it. That’s not it at all...!”

“You told me to ask anything, so I didn’t hold back and ended up saying what I wanted. Is that bad?”

“I did say that. That’s true. Still—”

She shook her head. Still lying down on the bed, she held her head in her arms. It was still the morning, but her face was red like the sunset.

“How should I say it? That’s right, isn’t this weird? Why did you propose here and now? I won’t be tricked. No matter how lacking in common sense I am, I at least know this much. You can’t fool me.”

“I’m not trying to trick you. I am actually proposing to you. I, Kirishima Yuuki, just asked Kanaruzawa Sekai for her hand in marriage. Seriously.”

“... No. Nonono.”

“If you can’t believe it, then do we need to record it? Then, would we need to ask someone to be a witness?”

“Nonononono.” She shook her head with teary eyes. Her hair swaying back and forth, waving in the air, and her mouth making flustered

expressions.

“It’s true that the way I proposed may have been bad, but I thought the mood wasn’t that bad. So I thought now would be the best time.”

“Good mood... No, well, it’s true it wasn’t a bad one. I also think that as well.”

“Also, I at least tried to give a bit of a warning. I thought I made a few statements in regards to that. Did it not get through? ”

“Eh. Eh?”

“I see. It didn’t get through. Maybe it was too roundabout.” Yuuki made a wry smile.

Sekai’s eyes were wide open.

“More importantly...” Her desperation was increasing steadily.

“Aren’t you still a high school student? Is that an age where you can actually marry?”

“No, well, I can’t. But after a few years, I can.”

“How about your parents? Your younger sister? Will they be able to accept it?”

“I would like them to accept it, but even if they don’t, it’s fine. It’s something that I have decided.”

“Moreover... Moreover, is it fine? With me? Really?”

“You are the one. Rather, you’re the only one. I haven’t lived much longer than ten years, but I know. Only a little bit of time has passed since we’ve first met, but I know. For me, you are the one. I want to live my life with you.”

“ ... ”

She once again became silent.

She was half crying.

"I won't ask you to give your answer right now." As kindly as possible, Yuuki spoke to her. "I would like you to think about it a little bit. Me and you. Maybe living with each other before we actually marry. No, rather, it would start with a normal boyfriend girlfriend relationship? Well, anyways, I ended up liking you. Completely falling in love with you. Please, I'll be in your care, or something like that. Yeah."

"..."

Sekai was frozen solid as usual. She was holding her mouth with both her hands, tears pouring out from her eyes.

"Ah... umm..." She became more and more panicked.

In a hurry, he tried to calm her down, "Sorry. Sorry. I didn't mean to make you cry. No, really. So—"

"I—" Sekai said.

"I?" Yuuki responded.

She shouted back with a louder voice, "I remembered that there was something important I had to do!"

Gabah! She pushed aside the blanket. She then left the warm bed out of her own accord.

"I remembered I had something important to do, so I'll leave now! I'm going to go home for the day!"

"Eh. Is everything alright? How are you feeling? Weren't you feeling bad earlier?"

"All of that just went away!" With unsteady footsteps, Sekai opened the door, and left the infirmary without looking back, "I can go home alone, so you can just stay! I'll call Chiyo so everything will be alright!"

"Ah. Yeah. If it's like that, then it's okay."

"Well then, farewell! Let's meet again!"

It was probably the first time that he had seen such agile movement from her. Kanaruzawa Sekai ended up disappearing from Yuuki's sight.

“ ... ”

Specks of dust floating in the morning sunlight. The sound of chirping birds. The voices coming from physical education class. Yuuki, standing there completely lost. Those were the only things left inside the infirmary.

“—Agh!?” Yuuki held his head. “I ended up doing it!? I really did end up doing it!?”

His body writhed in anguish. He expressed all of his suffering through his body.

“No, calm down. Calm down, me.” He unusually opened his mouth to talk to himself. Looking down at the palms of his hands, he spoke two no one in particular. “It's not exactly all bad. That's right? I ended up expressing my true feelings in an honest and straightforward manner. It's no problem. No problem at all.”

Really?

Is that really true?

For a man, this wouldn't this mean that he had perfectly succeeded in his once in a lifetime, biggest project ever? More importantly, what was the other person's feelings? Did he perhaps cause her some trouble? Should he have taken a few more steps beforehand? In reality, the other person had become nervous and took the chance to run away after all.

“No! I can't make any defense! I can't defend myself at all!”

He stomped on the ground. He waved both his hands like an overreacting foreign movie actor.

“Rather, this has become quite embarrassing! Did I really say something like that!? I'm amazed that I could even say it! I won't ever say it again!”

However, it couldn't be helped. His feelings had ended up becoming quite strong.

The weak Sekai.

The dignified Sekai.

The beautiful Sekai.

The crying Sekai.

The troublesome Sekai.

Continuing to look at her, supporting her for this short time, their friendship gathering and piling up as his love for her sprouted—then, as natural as water flowing from a cup, his will solidified. All in this short amount of time.

If he didn't say it then, then when would he have said it? He really didn't want to entrust her to anyone, that's what he strongly believed. To see her with someone else, that was something that he would rather die than see.

"What's wrong with me...?" He was alone, with his face turning red.

He didn't end up getting a yes. That was the result of the current situation. He needed to properly make his plans. In order for her to accept it—no, for her to be happy more than anything else.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai

Rabukome – Volume 2:

Chapter 8

“—Oh? You said something that quite interesting there.”

They were spending their after-meal teatime in the Kirishima family's garden. After listening to a sequence of events Kirishima Haruko nodded repeatedly. Then, she smiled, “In other words, you made a confession of love to a girl other than myself. That's what that means, right? Onii-sama.”

“Well, that's true...”

While confirming things, Yuuki was thinking that there would be no reason that he should be getting such a scary glare from his blood related sister.

“Onii-sama, you're quite troublesome.” Haruko shook her head. “I understand that for many males, being a little bit of a player to some extent is needed. It is also the role of a wife to be able to forgive a bit of cheating once or twice. However, you said something that should never have been said, right? Please be more understanding.”

“...There are a few things that I would like to retort for, but,” Yuuki was amazed, “How should I put this? It's somewhat unexpected?”

“Unexpected? How so?”

“I thought that you would be crying and complaining a lot more. I proposed to someone else other than you after all. However, you are still quite calm.”

“Aaah. That's what you mean.” She made a relaxed smile.

Yuuki became even more confused, “Don't you always say it? That I should marry you. Quite seriously at that.”

“Yeah. I do mean it when I say that.”

“Then, wouldn’t it be bad for me to be proposing to someone else?”

“Nope, that’s no problem at all.” His sister smiled and spoke. “When it comes to fights. Victory comes to the person that’s left standing at the very end. Rejoicing or despairing over the victories and losses in the middle is just a useless waste of energy.”

“Haah. I see.”

“Eventually, I’m going to change the laws of this country, so that I can legally marry you, Onii-sama. I do not care about anything that happens until that point. No matter how much those flies and cockroaches would like to annoy us, I pay no heed to it.”

“ ... ”

It was a statement that didn’t seem like it would come from an elementary schooler. Once again, he was made to realize that she really seemed like a reincarnation of Sokuten Bukou.

“But, you know.” Yuuki refused to back down. Being so confident until this point, it would make anyone want to see if they could break through. “If I really do end up marrying, what will you do? Will you quietly accept it?”

“No way. There is a line that must be drawn for everything. Everything up to that line would be forgiven, but anything more than that cannot and will not be accepted.”

“But, I’ll actually marry, you know? I’m serious about it.”

“Please go ahead and do your best. Looking at Onii-sama try so hard, is also something that I love ♥.”

“Even if mother and father oppose it, I’ll continue pushing.”

“Ah, if you’re going to elope, please let me know beforehand. I will go anywhere that you go, Onii-sama ♥.”

“ ... ”

To be amazed by his sister was normal—but, Yuuki felt some discomfort. There was something behind what Haruko was saying.

“I’m a little bit curious.”

“About what?”

“The way you put it, it sounds like it’s already been decided that I can’t marry her.”

“You can’t.” She declared.

No confusion, nor hesitation. As if everything was predetermined.

“Onii-sama and that white-haired girl can’t marry. No matter how serious Onii-sama is.”

“... Why do you think that?”

“A women’s intuition ♥.”

“That’s a lie. Your intuition is like that of a wild animal, but you wouldn’t depend just on your intuition.”

“Yes, as expected of Onii-sama. You know me very well.” His little sister sipped on her tea with a smile.

Yuuki scratched his head, “Then, I’m going to change the conversation.”

“Yeah.”

“Kanaruzawa’s position at school becoming worse, that was because you did something, right?”

“Yes.”

“... Why did you admit that so easily?”

“Because I did it so that you would notice.” She confessed it all, “I mean, isn’t it unnatural? The transfer student that was initially welcomed and well received suddenly becoming a hated in such a short amount of time. Who was it that would go out of the way and

report about the flowers, and make such a big deal out of it? If you just think about it, you would notice that something was off.”

He thought back to Koiwai Kurumi. The indecisive attitude shown by the other class representative. Maybe she had realized something at that point?

“...”

He took some time to put his cup to his mouth. Don’t let your emotions waver. Stay calm, steady. I have to deal with the current situation.

“Why?” That was the first thing he asked. “Why did you do something like that? Did you not like Kanaruzawa that much?”

The hostility that she has towards Kurumi should be the same. No matter who the woman is, any that spend their time around her brother would never be accepted by the little sister—however, such heavy handed means, that would even make Yuuki unhappy, was something that almost never happened. Then why did this happen this time?

“This will be my second warning, Onii-sama.” Without answering the question, the little sister said something else. “Don’t involve yourself with that white haired woman.”

“...”

Setting down his cup, he looked at his sister. It didn’t seem like she fooling around. Neither did she seem to have lost herself. Her back was straight, her voice calm. It was like a judge giving the defendant a suggestion. He heard it before, “Don’t involve yourself with her.” To her confident and convicted way of speaking, Yuuki once again straightened his posture and spoke.

“Haruko.”

“Yeah.”

“You said this before, right? That you would investigate. About Kanaruzawa.”

It was around the start of April, when Sekai had first come in as a transfer student. Haruko had said that she was curious and so she took on the role herself. And since she took it on, an investigation should have been done. An investigation upon Kanaruzawa with as much detail as possible. With the backing of Kirishima Pharmaceuticals, she was not only strong but thorough.

However, he still hadn't heard the results.

"Yes. I did some investigation." Nodding, Haruko refilled the tea. Then, she spoke as if it was an extension of a short chat. "Onii-sama, does the Tsukumo Organization ring a bell?"

"...? No. Haven't heard that at all before."

"I see. Is that so?"

"Is something wrong with that whatever-it's-called organization?"

"Nope. If you don't know, then it's nothing." Haruko shook her head. Then, her expression softened a bit, "Let's leave this talk at that. The tea that we've made would end up going bad otherwise."

"Yeah. Got it."

Yuuki did not pursue the topic any further. His sister was stubborn. If she were to say "It ends right here", then even if the heavens and the earth were to turn over on itself, she would not give in.

"Haruko will devote her all to Onii-sama." At the end of it all, his sister said that with a faint smile. "In order to protect Onii-sama, in order to benefit Onii-sama, Haruko will do anything. As such, please feel free to feel relieved."

Yuuki listened to those words with a wry smile. He was thinking about all those times that he had been saved by his sister who was so much younger than him. He wouldn't be able to lift his head to his sister, if he were to create any more debts, however, Yuuki was not convinced that would be able to go on without being taken care of by his little sister.

... In other words, he couldn't do anything but to just accept at least

that much.

The reincarnation of Sokuten Bukou, her taking on such a different manner of speech from usual, was just another page in the story of their everyday lives. However, it all turned around quickly. Without even waiting a year, it all came to pass in just a short amount of time.

†

“—As I thought, a wedding dress would be good.”

It was at the Kanaruzawa family mansion. The owner of the mansion spoke fervently.

“A dress with a lot of fine and fluffy lace. Of course, it would have to be pure white, without a single blemish.”

It was night. A night where even the plants were asleep. She was inside her own room, changing her clothes.

“However, it doesn’t have to be something really expensive. As long as it’s pretty, it’s okay. It can just be something that you could get anywhere.”

There was no wind, nor any flashing electric lights. There was only a small yellow light, lit by the bedside. That light made the shadow of the room’s owner grow longer than usual.

“Still, it would probably be in the middle of the spotlight. It would have to be a really nice and attractive dress. For instance—the chest area could be a little more bold and open. Yeah, it should be fine for something like that. I should try and challenge it myself. Yeah.”

The maid, Chiyo, was responsible for helping her change. While paying attention to her mistress’s mutterings, she moved her hands. Arranging her mistress’s hair, polishing her mistress’s nails, and putting on makeup for her mistress. For the woman that she served, she made every preparation.

Coiled around Sekai’s body was white clothing. [1]

Of course, it wasn’t a wedding dress.

"If you are worried at all," Chiyo spoke without stopping her hands. "You would certainly be quite beautiful."

"That would be good. Will I really be able to become pretty?"

"You definitely can. I myself would take the responsibility, in order to ensure that you would appear as a fine lady."

"I-I see. That would be good, but—"

"I'm sure it would also end up stealing the eyes of Yuuki-sama. He would definitely give you a lot of compliments. That person is surprisingly honest after all."

"..." Sekai's words were caught in her throat. Even with only the one flickering light in the room, it was easy to tell that her cheeks were red. "Chiyo?"

"Yes?"

"Can I just say something?"

"What is it?"

"I was very happy." Sekai said earnestly. It was as if she was lovingly letting sand fall from the palm of her hand exactly one grain at a time. "I was truly happy. Yuuki wishing to marry me. That made me really really happy."

"Yes. So it would seem."

"However, with it being so sudden, I quickly ran away."

"That can't be helped, he's just that type of person after all. Being straightforward and everything."

"I know right. What is that man thinking?" Saying that, Sekai laughed. "He's weirdly meddlesome, careful in every way, and curious about so many different things. Me being able to see a new world is only due to that man."

"Yes. It really is that way."

“Because of him, I have changed quite a bit. I’ve been thinking about a lot of things recently. Really, a lot of things. About the flowers blooming in the garden. The sky that can be seen through the window. The clouds that are flying by, the birds flying around. I have even been thinking about a lot of things that cannot be captured by eyes. Even though, just a little while before, I had completely quit on the action of even thinking of things.”

It started raining. Potsu potsu, the rain droplets made sounds as they fell down on the roof. The rainwater ran down through the gutters, making sound like vomit as it hits the ground.

“And you know? I feel like everything has become even more vivid. The feel when I touch a glass of whisky, the scent of smoke from my cigar tickling my nose—the things that seemed obvious, suddenly felt not obvious anymore.”

The dim light swayed.

Chiyo replied quietly with an, “As it would seem.”

“It’s like a dream. Everyday. Being able to spend every day like this. If I change, it’s like everything else changes.” Hafuu, she let out a deep breath. Sekai’s eyes were in a fully satisfied state as she let out a murmur. “So, this is what it means to be alive.”

The preparations were finished.

They left the room. Chiyo led her down the dark hallway.

A short silence fell.

“Chiyo?” Sekai opened her mouth and broke the silence. “If, if I did decide to marry—”

“You can’t.” She declared.

No confusion, nor hesitation. As if everything was predetermined. No. As if it was decided by fate.

“Yeah. That’s true.” Sekai smiled. “I said something stupid. Forget it.”

The two of them descended into the basement of the mansion. There stood a remarkable large door, as if it was looking down on anyone that would dare to visit what was behind it. Filled with a countless amount of death, even more countless than the number of stars, swallowing everything like a pot of greed. Exchanging suffering for the world's continuation, a nightmare of chaos. It was Kanaruzawa Sekai's workplace.

"Well then. We'll be depending on you today as well." Chiyo made a deep bow.

Sekai made a small nod. They waited in front of the door. The air was heavy and excruciating.

"Is something wrong?" The maid took a glance upward to gaze at her mistress and gauge her condition.

"... Hahah." A dry laugh rang out in the basement. While turning her back, Kanaruzawa continued with her weak laughter. "Sorry. I can't move. My legs are shaking."

"..."

"It's been a while, for it to be like this. How many years has it been... ten, no a hundred years? I've already completely forgotten."

"..."

"When the feeling of being alive surfaces, everything suddenly becomes scary. Fufu, it's really quite weird."

"... Mistress." Chiyo opened her mouth. Unusually, her voice was filled with pain. "Did I make a mistake, perhaps? I was the one that had recommended you to see the outside world."

"That's not it. I am grateful to you." Sekai shook her head, "I was going to stay not knowing anything for forever. Ignorant of everything, while just fulfilling what was within my power. Like something that was held sacred. Not that much different from a dress up doll, and you were the one who gave me the chance to change—"

Geho. A sound of suffering rang out. It came spilling out from Sekai.

And, what came out of her mouth was not just sound.

“...”

Holding down her mouth with her hand, Sekai bent forward. Botari, botari, the red liquid that spilled out quickly formed a single stream, and spread flat and wide on the floor.

“Mistress...!”

“It’s alright.” Holding back the maid who was trying to rush to her aid with an open hand, she swallowed the blood with a gulp. After doing that multiple time she took a breath. Then she looked down at her chest, and turned back around, “Sorry. I ended up ruining the clothes that you took so long to prepare.”

And she smiled.

“...”

Chiyo’s expression distorted. Her gaze shook as if full of hesitation. Eventually, she made a decision and spoke. “Please. Throw everything away.”

“Chiyo...?”

“Throw everything away and run. If you so wish, I will not stop you. No rather, I would do everything in my power to help you.”

“What are you sayi—”

“Throw it all away. You’ve already done enough, no, more than enough to fulfill your duty and roll. You protected the existence of this world alone, you allowed for the continuation of this world. Who would be able to complain? It should be alright for you to do whatever you want.”

“...”

“If you were to just nod your head, I would even give up my life to help you. Please, make a decision.”

Silence fell. It was a heavy, but short silence.

Sekai immediately smiled and spoke. "Chiyo. You're quite kind."

"... Me?"

"From such an adept person like you, you're kindness is clumsy, and yet I feel it all the time. You are always thinking of me. I hope that you will continue to serve me from now on."

"..."

"I sometimes say that I want to fire you, but that's just a joke."

"... Kind, the one that's kind—" Is you, Chiyo thought.

There was no one else kinder than Kanaruzawa Sekai. She was just like her name, quite literally, saving the world. Moreover, she does it alone, without a single bit of whining, while receiving an unimaginable amount of suffering.

Please, please—Chiyo prayed. Please, mistress, don't say such kind words to me. Every time you are kind to me, my powerlessness, my inability to do anything, becomes even more pronounced. In my long time of watching over you, my heart has already withered away. It withered away, and everything finally became easier. And yet, when you are kind to me, my heart that should have already withered away ends up hurting.

That's why, mistress.

Please, don't restore my human heart.

"_____"

Swallowing a thousand different words, Chiyo took a deep breath. And in the next moment, she returned to her usual self. She lowered her head deeply, "Sorry for stepping out of line. Please forgive me."

"It is nothing to worry about." Sekai quickly shook her head, "Rather, it really helped. As expected of Chiyo."

“...?”

“Look. The shaking has stopped.”

Gigigi.

The door opened with a creak.

Behind the heavy open doors, there was a space about the size of a full tennis court, with nothing but empty space and a stormy landscape.

“I have something I must do. And I’m the only one that can do it. Then there’s only one answer. Isn’t that right, Chiyo?”

“...”

It was just a short moment. The face of the maid that lived with the goddess, had the intention and will of fulfilling that cursed duty.

“I bid you farewell, Mistress. We’ll be depending on you today as well.”

“Yeah.”

Sent of by the maid, Sekai took a step forward. The darkness swallowed the girl, and the door creaked shut. There was only half a year until Sekai’s death.

TL Note:

1. Shiroshouzoku – white clothing that is similar to a kimono. It can either be related to the dead or the shinto rituals and customs.

Monku Tsukeyou ga Nai

Rabukome – Volume

2: Afterword

Suzuki Daisuke here. I bring to you volume two of Monku no Tsukeyou ga nai Rabukome.



Volume one ended in the way that it did, and volume two became like this. I believe that you as the one reading this would understand, but it's a first and second half. The next volume is planned to cover the ending of this "game". Still, Yuuki and Sekai's fight has just begun—I invite you to please look over the continuation of it.

Once again, on the web comic site, Tonari no Young Jump, currently has the comic version of this series by the illustrator, Abara Heiki. The story for it is written by me over here, Suzuki, and it provides a completely different taste from the original. I hope that you guys can all read it.



By the way, within the story, Kanaruzawa Sekai collects all types of alcohol, and drinks it. So far, only one brand has been specified. The scotch whiskey from Glen Albyn. It has already been almost 30 years since the distillery has been closed down, and by this point, new bottles are rarely released. If you happen to find this rare whiskey at a bar, I invite you to order it. You might be able to have a little taste of Kanaruzawa Sekai's world. And please, when that happens, please report it to me. If you would like, with a picture.



It was a short afterword, but I hope to see you all in the third volume.

One day in January, Suzuki Daisuke

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